

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Iraq

DATE DISTR. 21 March 1951

SUBJECT Baghdad Press Reviews

NO. OF PAGES 1 25X1A

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS. 18
(LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

DATE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1A

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT OF
U. S. C. 31 AND 32 AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION
OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRO-
HIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

The following material is sent in the belief that it may be of interest:

Daily Reviews of the Baghdad Press, Baghdad, Iraq

These attachments are of a free classification.

Encl: 18 press items.

25X1A

CLASSIFICATION

RESTRICTED

D A I L Y R E V I E W

of the

B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Wednesday, February 21, 1951

* * * * *

IRAQI-LEBANESE TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED.

The following official announcement has been released by the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs:

"H.E. Abdul Majid Mahmud, Minister of Economics, and H.E. Kadhem Al-Solh, Extraordinary Envoy and Plenipotentiary Minister of the Lebanese Republic in Baghdad, met at the Ministry of Economics at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 1951, and on behalf respectively of the Iraq Government and of the Lebanese Government signed the economic agreement between Iraq and Lebanon." (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

* * *

JEWISH EMIGRATION.

The date limit for registering Jewish emigrants was set for February 20; but, as registration offices are unable to handle all the applications, the date is extended to March 8, that is the expiry date of the denationalization law. However, registration offices outside Baghdad have been closed; but, applicants may call at the Baghdad office.

According to Al-Hawadith, no decision has been adopted regarding the extension of the denationalization law for six months.

As to the number of applicants, it amounts to about 100,000. (Al-Hawadith)

* * *

PREMIER NURI AS-SAID LEAVING FOR BASRA.

Healing Premier Nuri As-Said is leaving for Basra tomorrow for few days' rest. He may preside over the inaugural ceremony of the Basra Branch of his party, set for February 23. Several ministers and deputies will attend it. Dr. Dhiya Jaffar, Minister of Works and Communications, will fly to Basra tomorrow to inspect the Port and the Railways installations. (Ash-Shaab)

*

According.....

- 2 -

February 21, 1951

According to Liwa Al-Istiqlal, Premier Nuri As-Said, after inaugurating the Basra Branch of his party, will cruise the Indian Ocean on board of the Royal yacht, Ahmadi, as far as Karachi. He will be attended by some of his close friends.

* * *

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Speaking of the newly-formed newspapermen's association, Sada Al-Ahali remarks that this is not an innovation, because there was such an organization but it was abolished by the Martial Administration in 1949. The new draft press law, which was opposed by the newspapermen, has made them realize the necessity to have an association. A request was made in the early days of the present government. The approval of the Ministry of Interior was given after a long delay.

The paper calls on the newspapermen to "defend the principle of the freedom of press" despite their own political views. This association should be made to develop into a "union."

*

Commenting on the "Washington Star's" suggestion that Americans contribute to the repairs of the Prophet's shrine in Medina, Ismail Ghanem, writing in Al-Yadha with Palestine in mind, asks in the headline of his article, "Do Moslems accept that Americans repair their Prophet's shrine?" The answer is that if they "accept any contribution from non-Moslem, whether American, British or else, they would stain their history in an unprecedented manner."

The "Washington Star's" suggestion that contribution would help to gain Arab and Moslem sympathy is branded as an "overt stratagem which the Americans would do better not to rely on it", because it is a "bribe" for siding with "American Imperialism" against "World Bolshevik tyranny."

Ismail Ghanem believes that "the Jewish agency may have inspired the idea."

*

In connection with Saleh Jabr's reference to Communism in his statement, Ash-Shaab says that Communist activities are being exaggerated in the country. Indeed, there is a general discontent because of the need for social justice.

*

Ex-Staff.....

February 21, 1951

Ex-Staff Colonel Haqqi Abdul Karim writes about the American defense plans in Al-Akhbar.

We recall, he says, that when the U.S. entered World War II, the people in Baghdad laughed at the figures of military production given by President Roosevelt, as they could not believe them.

Today, the U.S. is determined to check Russian aggression. She is laying down plans to defend herself and to fulfil her international obligations, and they are being carried out.

The Korean war proves the necessity of maintaining huge forces for preserving peace anywhere in the world for fear from the unlimited Soviet expansionsim. The Americans must have plans which may be adapted to new weapons and to the requirements of their foreign policy. The U.S.'s foreign policy, as backed by her armed force, aims at present to the following:

1) She wants to preserve her own democratic regime and her way of life against any aggression and at any cost.

2) She has divorced with the policy of appeasement which has proved to be costly in lives and money.

3) She seeks peace for herself and the peace-loving nations. Consequently, she upholds the UN and wants for it a high prestige.

This year is to see many changes in the U.S.'s foreign policy. She is planning the defense of Asia against Communism and she is effectively participating in Korea. Experience since 1930 proves that the policy of appeasement leads to war.

The U.S. is making tremendous efforts to strengthen Western Europe and the North Atlantic nations. Strong defense is the only guarantee against Russia's greed and against the Communist peril, prior to overcoming them. The U.S. does not like to see Western Europe overrun by Communist forces and to be forced to stage costly landings as in 1944.

Truman, in his June 27, 1950 statement, has underscored the defense of the Philippines and of Indo-China. Indeed, the Philippines with Japan and Okinawa constitutes the front line in the Pacific. As for Formosa, the U.S. wants it to be held by a friend of hers. Chiang Kai-Shek is the man. The U.S. is providing the French troops in Indo-China with arms and ammunitions to fight the Communists.

The U.S. command sees still some dangerous spots, such as Siam, Burma, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey. the U.S. is helping those countries earnestly fighting Communism.

The.....

- 4 -

February 21, 1951

The U.S. command believes that no enemy may defeat the U.S. unless he controls Western Europe. Therefore, the U.S. is reinforcing not only her land forces but also her navy and air force.

General Eisenhower left New York on February 16 for Europe to assume the supreme command of the NAT forces. He will organize them so as they fulfil their task in case of aggression. Holland will not be left helpless on the path of a Communist invasion. France has sent large forces to Indo-China; they have to be made up for. But, economic conditions in Western Europe have improved; this will much help General Eisenhower.

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

The trial of Ghadban As-Saad, author of the book "Korea in the Parade of Freedom", has been postponed until February 27 upon the request of the Public Prosecutor. (Al-Alam Al-Arabi)

*

In connection with the current Syro-Iraqi trade talks, informed circles believe that the agreement will be initialed at the week-end. (Al-Umma)

*

After being examined by the Codification Department, the draft law to replace the Dujaila Scheme Law is to be submitted to the Council of Ministers by the Ministry of Economics. The new law is called "Law for the Administration of the Miri Lands." (Al-Umma)

* * * * *

E N D

25X1A

D A I L Y R E V I E W
of the
B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq

March 2, 1951
March 3, 1951

* * * * *

TEXT OF MPs' PROTEST AGAINST FRENCH RULE IN MOROCCO.

Here is the full text of the protest voted by the Chamber of Deputies on Thursday, March 1, and cabled to various heads of states, governments and parliaments throughout the world:

"The Iraqi Chamber of Deputies considers the tyrannic actions, the imperialistic persecutions and the barbarous pressure on the Moroccans and His Eminence the Sultan to comply with the will of the French authorities as inconsistent with human rights, as an outrage against the rights of the Moroccan people struggling for their freedom and independence, and as a defy to the Arab nation. This has aroused the strong indignation and discontentment of its members. Unanimously it decided on March 1, 1951, to authorize me to condemn on behalf of its members the actions of the French Government, and its tyrannic and hostile policy which is contrary to Justice in an era when the continuance of imperialism anywhere is condemned.

Ahmed Al-Amer,
Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies."

The protest was cabled to the following persons:

President of the U.S.A.
President of the U.S. Congress (sic)
The Prime Minister of the U.K.
The Speaker of the British House of Commons
The President of the French Republic
The President of the French National Assembly
The President of the U.S.S.R.
The President of the UN Security Council
The UN Secretary-General
The President of the Turkish Republic
The President of the Turkish National Assembly
The Prime Minister of Iran
The President of the Iranian Majlis
The Governor-General of Pakistan
The President of the Pakistan Constituent Assembly
The President of the Indian Republic

The.....

- 2 -

March 2 and 3, 1951.

The President of the Indian National Assembly
The President of the Indonesian Republic
The President of the Indonesian Chamber of Deputies
The Prime Minister of Afghanistan
The President of the Afghan Chamber of Deputies
The Prime Minister of Egypt
The President of the Egyptian Chamber of Deputies
The President of the Lebanese Republic
The President of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies
The President of the Syrian Republic
The President of the Syrian Chamber of Deputies
The Prime Minister of Jordan
The President of the Jordan Chamber of Deputies
H.M. King Ibn Saud, King of the Arab Saudi Kingdom
H.M. Imam Ahmed, King of the Mutawakila Yemenite Kingdom
H.M. Mohammed V, Sultan of the Caliphate of Morocco
The Secretary-General of the Arab League
Sayid Allal Al-Fasi, Leader of the Moroccan Independence Party.

The Liberation Committee for the Arab Maghreb.
(Liwa Al-Istiqlal. 3/2)

* * *

MARCH 1 MEETING OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

Thursday's meeting of the Chamber of Deputies/ was devoted to the Moroccan case. However, Justice Minister Hassan Sami Tatar was sworn in as Deputy for Diyala (District of Khanaqin). New questions were put by deputies: Ahmed Al-Naqib is inquiring about a statement made by Dr. Jamali about the defense of the Middle East; Dhiban Al-Ghabban, about Jamali's statement branding China as aggressor, and about siding with one of the two world camps.

64 deputies tabled a resolution asking the Chamber of Deputies to protest against the actions of the French Government in Morocco and the Iraq government to adopt economic and diplomatic sanctions against France after consulting with the other Arab states. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

"H.E. the President of the Chamber of Deputies,

"French imperialistic tyranny in Morocco has reached its peak lately as General Juin, the French Resident, is threatening the Sultan with dethronement unless he subdues to him and carries out France's imperialistic wishes. That is why, we ask that this proposal of ours be submitted to the High Assembly for authorizing the Presidency to cable to the UN, the Big Powers, and their parliaments in the name of our High Assembly, in order to put on record the Iraqi people's and the Chamber's condemnation, so as to protest against French aggression, to consider

- 3 -

March 2 and 3, 1951.

France as an aggressor and to impose sanctions. Presidency should cable also to the Arab states, their League, and their parliaments in order to adopt the necessary measures to check French effervescence by all available diplomatic and economic means so as it heads and complies with the Moroccan people's demands for freedom, sovereignty and independence."

Izziddin Al-Naqib, elaborating on the resolution suggested that Iraq breaks diplomatic and economic relations with France as a means of pressure. The idea was supported by Mohammed Siddiq Shanshal, Ahmed Aj-Jalili, Abdul Karim Kanna, Ismail Ghanem, Dhiban Al-Ghabban, Daud Aj-Jaf, and Faiq As-Samerrai.

Abdul Karim Kanna said French actions in Morocco are reminiscent of France's behaviour in Syria in 1945. Ismail Ghanem accused Britain of connivance, saying that without its assent France would have refrained. Dhiban Al-Ghabban pointed that economic sanctions would hit at France's share of the Iraqi oil.

To Interior Minister Omar Nadhmi's remark that the government has received no official information about developments in Morocco, Faiq As-Samerrai retorted that the Arab League discussed the matter at its last meeting.

In the end, the Chamber voted unanimously for the protest which Ahmed Al-Amer sent on its behalf. (Az-Zaman. 3/2)

* * *

INDEPENDENCE PARTY'S MANIFESTO RE MOROCCO.

In a manifesto issued by Mohammed Mahdi Kubba, the Independence Party says, "The ordeal of Morocco is a test for the UN. Once again, the Arab public feels the extent to which the Western camp is attached to the UN charter. In case aggression has any significance, and the Western camp is aware of its responsibility for checking aggression, here is France, a member of the camp, striving to impose imperialism contrarily to the principles of the UN, to the principle of self-determination, to the rules of international justice and to the human rights."

The manifesto concludes, "The Independence Party calls on the Iraqi people to ask the government for the necessary measures to break diplomatic and economic relations with France, for summoning the Arab League to have the other Arab governments adopt a similar stand, and for, at the same time, taking the matter to the UN. France's imperialistic policy is overtly inconsistent with the UN and, thus, places it in the position of aggressor against the rights of the Arab people of Morocco." (Liwa Al-Istiqbal. 3/2)

- 4 -

March 2 and 3, 1951.

JEWISH EMIGRATION.

Following the press report that the period for the denationalization of Jews will not be extended beyond March 9, the number of applicants has considerably increased so that the registration offices at the Meer Tuweig Synagogue is remaining open until after midnight, reports Az-Zaman.

The number of application forms has jumped to 37,500 representing about 100,000 names. It is expected to increase still more up to 120,000 names.

In February, the Council of Ministers approved the denationalization of 20,964 persons. Quoting Al-Nidhal newspaper, of Mosul, Az-Zaman says that all the Jews of Mosul have registered for emigration. (Az-Zaman. 3/2)

*

Quoting Deputy-Premier Towfig As-Suwaidi, Al-Hawadith (3/2) affirms that the period of denationalization will not be extended beyond March 8.

The actual number of emigrants who left Iraq is 32,000. The Council of Ministers has already approved the application of 90,000 Jews.

The Council of Ministers has decided to consider the Jews stripped of their nationality and still in Iraq after March 8 as foreigners subjected to the Residence Law.

However, the transportation of denationalized Jews will be intensified; and all of them will be taken away within two months from the dateline of March 8. Nevertheless, the Jews who retain their Iraqi nationality, will be regarded as Iraqi citizens with full civic rights.

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

The Chief Rabbi of the Jewish community in Basra explains in an official announcement that the attempt made against his life was instigated by the committee charged with the transportation of the Jewish emigrants in Basra. According to the announcement, on February 22, some persons went into his official residence and starting beating him to death; but, he was rescued by "some Jews and Moslems." (Al-Akhbar. 3/3)

*

Dr. Dhia.....

- 5 -

March 2 and 3, 1951.

Dr. Dhia Jaffar, the Minister of Works and Communications, will fly to Baghdad from Bahrain, leaving behind Premier Nuri As-Said who is still cruising in the Persian Gulf. (Az-Zaman. 3/3)

*

According to Abdul Majid Mahmud, Minister of Economics, the Iraqi and the Syrian trade delegations will initial a trade agreement early this week. (Az-Zaman. 3/3)

*

This morning, the new Egyptian Minister will present his credentials. (Az-Zaman. 3/3)

*

The Council of Ministers has decided to permit Japanese ships to enter into Iraqi ports. (Al-Nabaa. 3/2)

* * * * *

E N D

D A I L Y R E V I E W

of the

B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

March 1, 1951.

* * * * *

REGENT TO STAY IN LONDON ANOTHER WEEK.

According to a London message, Emir Abdul Ilah, Regent of Iraq, will remain in the British capital until March 8. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

* * *

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

After stressing the usefulness of the direct electoral system, Liwa Al-Istiqlal says that the proposal submitted by the deputies is a "test" for the government's "reform program."

*

Sada Al-Ahali speaks of the Karachi conference. It underscores that the Islamic states need to establish closer relations and to form a bloc of their own. But, the conference has failed to point out the danger arising from imperialism; it should have, first of all, decided to resist the existing foreign influence on the Islamic states being exercised either directly or indirectly. Moreover, the conference should have studied the internal conditions of the Islamic states. These two points should have been given more attention by the conference.

The conference should have examined French tyranny over Morocco, the presence of British bases in Iraq, Jordan and Egypt, the fact that Britain has placed its air bases in the Arab states at the disposal of the U.S., and the other fact that despite their wealth the Islamic states are living in a state of misery.

In the end, the paper asks for other conferences, but which would be more representative of the people and which would thoroughly examine the various problems facing the Islamic states.

*

Speaking.....

- 2 -

March 1, 1951.

Speaking of the Qudsi plan for Arab federation, Al-Awqat Al-Baghdadiya says that it favors a federation provided that all the Arab states are really independent and that it is being done by the free assent of the people.

The Qudsi plan was put forward to keep the Arabs busy until the League passed its "historical" decision of siding with the West. When this phase was over, an American source has begun to talk of the "Fertile Crescent". Indeed, all these plans are meant to bind the Arab states to the West and to consolidate its imperialistic influence over them.

*

As-Sijil believes that Deputy-Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi should have resigned following the criticisms to which he has been subjected in parliament. The paper considers him as a "very educated" man with a strong personality, but unfortunately "materialistic."

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

The Chamber of Deputies has been notified of the election of Justice Minister Hassan Sami Tatar for the electoral district of Khanaqin (Diyala Liwa). He was uncontested. Thus, there remains one vacancy in parliament; it is due to the fact that Diwali Doski was sentenced imprisonment; however, the government has not announced any by-election for the vacancy. (Al-Alam Al-Arabi).

*

Requests have come from Najaf that the Iraqi government uses its good offices with the Syrian government in behalf of Abbas Hamid Al-Kharasan, the Iraqi student implicated in the murder attempt against Col. Shishakly, in order that he be allowed to have a lawyer to defend him. (Al-Alam Al-Arabi).

*

The B.P.C. workers' strike is nine-day old now.
(Al-Alam Al-Arabi)

*

The Chamber of Deputies is convening today. (Ash-Shaab)

Mohammed.....

- 3 -

March 1, 1951.

Mohammed As-Seoud, Assistant Chief of the Mechanical Engineers of the ISR, and Ziwar Nashat, Chief Architect of the ISR, are the ISR's candidates for two UN fellowships. (Sada Al-Ahali)

*

The Ministry of Finance means to draft an interim budget for the month of April and May, in order to have time to prepare the general budget. (Al-Umma)

* * * * *

E N D

D A I L Y R E V I E W
of the
B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Sunday, March 4, 1951
Monday, March 5, 1951

* * * * *

PREMIER NURI AS-SAID DUE IN BAGHDAD TODAY.

Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi (3/5) reports:

"We have learned that H.E. Premier Nuri As-Said will arrive in Baghdad from Basra today by air. The tentative hour for his arrival is 2 p.m."

* * *

THE BPC WORKERS' STRIKE.

DG of Labor and Social Security Abdul Razzak Ibrahim returned in Baghdad after visiting Basra on instruction from the Ministry of Social Affairs to examine the causes of the B.P.C. workers' strike.

He stated that the number of the B.P.C. workers on strike from the Zubair area is 300; others of the Maqina area have gone on strike in sympathy with them. The workers' main demands are: 1) a 50% wages increase, 2) payment for two extra hours daily for crossing the distance between their residence and their working place, and 3) payment for the days of the strike.

He added that the company is prepared to implement the provisions of the Labor Law. Summing up the case, he said that the company is not prepared to negotiate unless the workers stop their strike and that the workers do not want to return to work unless their main demands are carried out. Moreover, the company suggested to deduce the days of the strike from the workers' leaves, and to shorten the distance between their working place and their residence. (Al-Alam Al-Arabi. 3/4)

*

On the 12th day of the strike, the strike committee says that the meeting with the company's representatives has been inconclusive.

Supports.....

- 2 -

March 4 and 5, 1951.

Supports to the strike has come from the workers of the Iraq Grain Grinding Co., the union of the Printing Press Workers in Baghdad, and the Union of Cigarettes Factories Workers in Baghdad. (Al-Alam Al-Arabi. 3/4)

*

According to reports from Basra, the strike is taking a "more serious turn." None of the arrested workers has been released.

According to the Propaganda Department news bulletin, the DG of Labor and Social Security left once again for Basra to settle the strike. (Al-Nabaa. 3/5)

*

The BPC Workers' strike, says Liwa Al-Istiqlal (3/5), is not the first of its kind; on several occasions, workers have been forced to defend their rights against foreign companies' unfairness. Moreover, workers employed by foreign companies should get better treatment for: 1) they are exploiting the country's resources and 2) they are foreign companies which know of the labor legislation in the world.

The demands of the B.P.C. workers are "fundamental" and provided for not only in foreign legislation but also in the Iraqi.

The government should not hesitate to submit to parliament labor laws, providing for individual labor contract and social security because the labor problem threatens the country's security and stability as long as foreign companies are persisting in their arbitrary treatment of the workers.

*

More than 1,500 families, says Mohammed Mahdi Aj-Jawahery in Al-Awqat Al-Baghda (3/4), are exposed to privation and hunger because of the arbitrary measures of a "foreign and imperialistic company." What they are asking for is only part of what the rights they are entitled to under the Constitution and other laws.

*

Speaking of the strike, Sada Al-Ahali (3/4) says that the B.P.C. is not only exploiting the country's resources but also its manpower and is humiliating the workers. As for the

government....

- 3 -

March 4 and 5, 1951.

government, besides overlooking the oil companies' contraventions of the concession terms, it is using its police force to terrorize the workers when asking for their rights.

The government should back the workers' demands, and not the company as it did recently together with the representatives of the Majority Party.

*

Abdul Jabbar Mallaq, Chairman of the Constitutional Union Party's Basra Branch, denies officially that representatives of the party threatened the B.P.C. workers on strike during the meeting held by the company's representatives, the workers, and by the DG of Labor and Social Security. He admits that one representative of the party attended the meeting with the intention of protecting the workers' rights. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi. 3/4)

* * *

MOROCCO.

According to the Sharq Al-Adna Radio, the Arab League Secretariat is to summon the AL Political Committee for an urgent meeting to consider the Moroccan case. The tentative date for the meeting is Saturday, March 10.

Despite the ban on demonstrations, students in Cairo carried on and have marched to the Arab League headquarters urging Azzam Pasha to lead the "Arab Jihad" against Imperialism. (Az-Zaman. 3/5)

*

After stressing that the League is an "ineffective political instrument" and that imperialism throughout the world is solidary and indivisible (Holland was helped by Britain and the U.S.A. in Indonesia; France by the U.S.A. in Morocco), Sada Al-Ahali (3/5) says, "The Arab peoples and their popular organizations should play an effective role in directing aid to the Moroccan people in their present struggle against French imperialism, either by sending direct aid to Morocco itself or by fighting Imperialism in their own country."

*

Commenting on the reported refusal of the French Ambassador in Cairo to receive the Egyptian Foreign Minister for discussing the Moroccan case on the ground that it is France's business only, Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi (3/4) deems it a "strange logic.....

- 4 -

March 4 and 5, 1951.

logic", because international practice and the UN charter allow the Arab states to intervene in behalf of an Arab people. In fact, the Arab states are defending their own interests because those of the Arab peoples are "indivisible." France, concludes the paper, should "better do to give up its imperialistic and terroristic policy which has brought about catastrophes only."

*

Today's front page headlines read:

Al-Nabaa (3/5): "French aircrafts bomb Fez and destroy its mosques."

Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi (3/5): "King Abdulla lends full attention to French acts of aggression in Morocco."

Al-Umma (3/5): "Frenchmen outrage mosques in Fez."

Al-Alam Al-Arabi (3/5): "Frenchmen shell Fez."

Sada Al-Ahali (3/5): "French shells pour into Fez."

Az-Zaman (3/5): "Did French artillery shell Fez?"

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

Hashim Al-Hilli, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has returned after attending the UN session. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal. 3/5)

*

The Iraqi Airways is to help fly Jewish emigrants. The government means to have 1000 denationalized Jews leave Iraq daily after the dateline of March 8. (Al-Hawadith. 3/5)

*

On March 4, the new Egyptian Minister presented his credentials to the Regency Council. (Az-Zaman. 3/5)

*

According to the Minister of Economics, Dr. Nadim Al-Pachachi's trip to London on March 12 is connected with project of the oil refinery. (Az-Zaman. 3/5)

*

The.....

- 5 -

March 4 and 5, 1951.

The Minister of Interior has appointed Fadhil Awni, Mumayiz of the Administrative Affairs, as Director of Municipalities. (Ash-Shaab. 3/5)

*

The Chamber of Deputies is meeting today. (Ash-Shaab. 3/5)

*

The Iraqi government has agreed to the Swiss-proposed air agreement and has requested the Swiss government to appoint the representative who will sign it. (Az-Zaman. 3/4)

*

The Court of Cassation has upheld the decision of the Court of Sessions and of the Criminal Court of First Instance, ordering the arrest of Chadban As-Saad, author of "Korea in the Parade of Freedom". (Sada Al-Ahali. 3/4)

*

Having appealed against the Criminal Court's sentence of six months' imprisonment with respite, Mohammed Amin Al-Hakim, responsible Mudir of Al-Istiqlal newspaper, and Adnan Ar-Rawi, as author of the punishable articles, have had their sentence commuted by the Court of Sessions into a fine amounting to ID.50 and, in case of failing to pay, three months' prison. Their defense counsel is to appeal to the Court of Cassation. (Sada Al-Ahali. 3/4)

*

Abdul Malik Al-Khedairi, Second Counselor in the London Embassy, has been promoted to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary. (Al-Akhbar. 3/4)

*

In order to speed up the transportation of Jewish emigrants, the Council of Ministers has allowed the Near Eastern Airline Co. to fly them to airfields of countries not having diplomatic relations with Iraq. Previously, the Council's decision was that the planes should fly to countries having diplomatic relations with Iraq. (Al-Umma. 3/4)

*

Despite the fact that Iraq is still at war with Japan, the Council of Ministers has granted to Japanese ships the permission to harbor into Iraqi ports. (Al-Umma. 3/4)

E N D

of the

B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Tuesday, March 6, 1951.

* * * * *

PREMIER NURI AS-SAID RETURNS TO CAPITAL.

Premier Nuri As-Said returned from Basra by air. He arrived yesterday at 6 p.m.

Dr. Dhia Jaffar, the Minister of Works and Communications, returned too by air. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

* * *

SYRO-IRAQI TRADE AGREEMENT INITIALED.

Yesterday evening, the Syro-Iraqi trade agreement was initialed. The Syrian delegation is flying this morning to Damascus. According to Economics Minister Abdul Majid Mahmud, in addition to the trade agreement, another for transit has been drawn up, plus two annexes one for duty-free foodstuffs and the other for goods with a reduced tariff. (Az-Zaman)

* * *

MARCH 5 MEETING OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

At yesterday's meeting of the Chamber of Deputies, it was announced that the Supplement to the Development Board Law has been received by the Chamber. (The Supplement authorizes the Board to dispose of the IBRD loan for the Tharthar Valley Project)

*

Cables of appreciation for the Chamber's stand on the Moroccan case were read out. The senders are Jordan Premier Samir Pasha Ar-Rifaye, Allal Al-Fasi, who is in Tangier, and AL Secretary Azzam Pasha. The Chamber was informed of the letter of the Saudi Minister in Baghdad, conveying King Ibn Saud's "appreciation" for its stand.

Mohammed Mahdi Kubba, referring to the reported meeting of the AL Political Committee slated for March 10, inquired about the measures contemplated by the Iraq Government and suggested retaliations against France's economic and cultural interests.

*

Thirteen.....

- 2 -

March 6, 1951.

Thirteen deputies have tabled a resolution for extending for another year the law suspending payments of mortgaged debts.

*

The Chamber approved the second amendment to the Law for selling and renting Government Properties. The amendment is to extend the period of lease to charitable associations to a maximum limit of 90 years. Khalil Ismail protested against the length of period and proposed its cutting down to 50 years. But, Finance Minister Abdul Wahab Marjan explained that the purpose of the amendment is to enable the Dar As-Salam Association to build up a large hospital.

*

The Chamber switched to the law for additional allocations to the 1950 budget. Before the debate was over, it adjourned until Thursday, March 8. (Az-Zaman)

* * *

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Speaking of Morocco, Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi blames the West and particularly the U.S. for inaction towards French tough handling of Moroccan affairs. The paper says, "France is razing Moroccan towns one by one, and it is bombing the unarmed population, destroying houses and spreading death, terror and destruction. Disappointingly, no voice is being raised at the UN to stop this imperialistic despotism and these barbarous acts inconsistent with any of the UN's human rights. At least a feeble voice was hoped to be raised in Washington or London condemning this barbarous aggression of France."

Commenting on the U.S. government's request to the French authorities to settle the differences in Morocco amicably, the paper notes that the U.S. request was not heeded as the French are killing Moroccans by "thousands" and sees no basis for it because after all Moroccans are entitled to freedom and independence in accordance with the Atlantic Charter "bearing the seal of the U.S. Government."

Questioning the American motives, the paper adds, "Indeed, the U.S. Government's request is a cover to ignore the demands for assistance to Morocco. That is why, we believe that it is true that the French and the American governments have agreed during General Juin's visit to the U.S. to give France a free hand in Morocco against granting military bases to the U.S. there."

Referring.....

- 3 -

March 6, 1951.

Referring to the report that the first shipment of the material for these air bases have arrived in Morocco from the U.S., the paper remarks indignantly, "Thus, the U.S. for the sake of such bases is sacrificing any principle of human justice and is disregarding any commitment to uphold the peoples' rights and to serve freedom and peace."

The paper concludes, "Morocco represents a new test for the Arab world's faith in the principles of freedom and peace. Experience shows that the people's rights depend on their struggle. Moroccans are in a continual struggle for their freedom and honor. The Arab peoples must rely on themselves and on their own measures in support of the Moroccans. Indeed, Morocco's struggle is the one of the whole Arab world."

*

"The Arab states, as they are now, have no weight," asserts General Taha Al-Hashimi in Liwa Al-Istiqlal. As evidences, he cites the French policy in Morocco and the refusal of the French Ambassador in Cairo to discuss it with the Egyptian Foreign Minister. That is why, the Arab world has to strive for its unity.

* * * * *

E N D

D A I L Y R E V I E W
of the
B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

March 7, 1951.

* * * * *

IRAQI DELEGATION TO ARAB LEAGUE.

Today, the Council of Ministers is to examine the Arab League Secretariat's invitation to the AL Political Committee's meeting and to appoint the Iraqi delegation.

According to some rumors, Premier Nuri As-Said will head the delegation unless he is tied down by important affairs. In this case, Deputy-Premier Towfiq As-Suwaidi will lead it. The members of the delegation are to be Musa Ash-Shabandar, Minister in Damascus, Najib Ar-Rawi, Minister in Cairo, and Yussef Gailani, of the Foreign Office.

The same delegation will attend the new Arab League session to begin after the AL Political Committee's meeting. (Al-Hawadith)

* * *

COMMUNIST UNDERGROUND.

Al-Nabaa reports, "The CID's attention has been struck recently by sudden activities on the part of Communists. It counteracted by arresting a large number of them including some employees of the DG of Imports. During the search, the CID got hold of many documents and publications. We withhold any details as the investigation is still going on."

*

As-Sijil reports, "The CID is displaying marked activities these days, as it is examining important cases. We have learned that the police has discovered a roneo printing press in Erbil."

* * *

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Capitalizing on the Morocco case, Al-Umma blames the government for inaction when all the Iraqis and the Arabs everywhere are condemning French tyranny. "It is shameful" says the paper.....

- 2 -

March 7, 1951.

paper, "that the government looks to the matter as though it were not its business."

The criticism of the government is due to the Minister of Interior's remark in parliament that it will take appropriate actions when official information are received. The paper ironically asks from where the information are to be received. If the press reports are not true, how then the U.S. which is the "mother of imperialism" has been forced to condemn French outrages? Moreover, how the Arab League is to hold a meeting for examining the matter?

The paper concludes, "Ye, the men in power, France's barbarous aggression against Morocco has reached the maximum limit, as French troops have outraged worship places, and French artillery is decimating Moroccans, slaughtering aged persons, women and children. If you are prevented from acting, make it known to the people so that they will be aware of your motives, as the people are talking of Morocco day and night."

*

Blasting France, Tahsin Ali, writing in Az-Zaman, says, "The French government which falsely claims to be the alma matter of freedom and the champion of the weak peoples, is the most tyrannic and the cruelest imperialistic government on earth."

After recalling French bombing of Damascus, Tahsin Ali points out that France is forgetting that the Arabs of the Maghreb fought and died for France during the two world wars, and they are still fighting in Indochina.

Tahsin Ali would like the Arab states to do more than sending a protest and he suggests "boycotting" France.

* * *

PROTESTS AGAINST FRENCH ADMINISTRATION OF MOROCCO.

In a protest to be communicated to all diplomatic missions in Iraq the President of the Iraqi Newspapermen's Association says:

"...The Iraqi Newspapermen's Association has to protest strongly against France's imperialistic policy in Morocco and to urge the Arabs and their rulers to support Morocco's struggle for freedom by all means... The Arabs, governments and peoples, have to put an end to the imperialistic despotism in their country in general and in Morocco in particular in order to ensure their freedom and their unity." (Az-Zaman)

*

The.....

- 3 -

March 7, 1951.

The President of the Lawyer's Association has also lodged a protest addressed to the UN Secretary and to all foreign missions. He says, "France, which claims to defend the free world, is resorting to violence and cruelty to deny the Moroccan people their freedom. The silence of the Big Powers and the UN regarding the injustices and outrages of French imperialism in the Maghreb gives the lie to any idealistic appeal and arises doubt about the moral values and the Charter of the UN. France's actions constitute an overt aggression which must be resisted. Inaction is contrary to justice and the norms of international law." (Az-Zaman)

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

The Higher Committee of the Constitutional Union Party has been summoned for a meeting this afternoon to examine "some draft laws and other matters." (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is making the necessary arrangements with the Egyptian government for raising diplomatic representation to the ambassadorial rank. (Al-Hawadith)

*

According to Reuter, Mr. McGhee is due in Baghdad for a two-day visit. He will confer with Premier Nuri As-Said. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

* * * * *

E N D

D A I L Y R E V I E W

of the

B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.Thursday, February 22, 1951
Friday, February 23, 1951
Saturday, February 24, 1951

* * * * *

BASRA BRANCH OF CONSTITUTIONAL PARTY INAUGURATED.

On Friday, October 23, Premier Nuri As-Said, in his capacity of Leader of the Constitutional Union Party, opened the inaugural ceremony of the Basra Branch of his party. The rally was attended by Education Minister Khalil Kanna, Justice Minister Hassan Sami Tatar, and Dr. Dhia Jaffar, Minister of Works and Communications. (Al-Akhbar. 2/24)

*

Commenting on the inauguration of the Basra Branch, Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi (2/23) writes, "The party adds a new victory to its record during its so short life of one year and some months. The party has proved during its struggle whether in the political, social, cultural or economic field that it is an organization from the people and is based on the pillars of trust, sincerity and clear planning. The party has been rewarded by the fact that a large number of persons have applied to it, believing in the leadership of Nuri As-Said and supporting his principles and aims with all the moral and material force they have. The members feel that they are doing for a party which has devoted all its potential, sincerity and ability to serving the nation and raising the people's living standard."

* * *

ADMINISTRATION CHANGES.

Royal Iradas have been issued transferring Kamal Ibrahim, DG of Propaganda, and Hassan Ad-Dujaili, Baghdad Radio Chief, to the teaching staff. Consequently, the Ministry of Interior has decided to entrust the post of the DG of Propaganda to Khalil Ibrahim in an interim capacity. Khalil Ibrahim was until recently attache to the Iraqi Legation in Paris.

Other Royal Iradas were issued ordering the following transfers and appointments:

Lazar.....

- 2 - Feb. 22, 23 and 24, 1951.

Lazar Ibrahim, Qaimaqam of Raniya, to Makhmur
Mohammed Abdul Rahman, Qaimaqam of Daqoq, to Koysenjeq
Abdul Qadir Mohyiddin, Qaimaqam of Koysenjeq, to
headquarters of the Kirkuk Liwa
Ismail Ali Ash-Shaikh, Mudir of Qara Hassan, appointed
Qaimaqam of Raniya. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi. 2/22)

* * *

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Writing in Al-Awqat Al-Baghdadiya (2/23), a paper belonging to Zaki Ahmed and now edited by Mohammed Mahdi Aj-Jawahery, ex-Senator Sadeq Al-Bassam hits the Anglo-Arab alliance and the way the Arab countries are governed. He deplores that the Arabs rid themselves of the Ottoman rule to fall under the "worse subservience to London and to Washington."

He underscores the nationalist character of the Arab Revolt; but, the subservience to Britain has cropped up after the partition of the Arab world by their so-called allies after World War I. The "free Arabs" are resisting foreign influence covered by so-called treaties of alliance and protocols of common defense; but, they have been "denounced" and "accused of promoting some other foreign influence." What they want, in fact, is to set "the governments on sound national bases."

As for the Arab politicians, it is high time for them, as World War III is seen at the horizon, to be fairer towards the people and to submit to its will after it has submitted to theirs for 30 years.

*

Commenting on Stalin's latest statement, Sada Al-Ahali (2/23) believes that he hit more Britain than the U.S.; maybe he meant to draw the attention of the Labor Party's rank-and-file, and especially the "progressive" elements thereof, about the responsibility of Britain for driving the world to war by its compliance to the U.S.

Switching to the Istanbul conference of the U.S. diplomats, the paper says, "It is obvious that the U.S. is meddling with Middle Eastern affairs more and more. It intends to tie the area to its political and military plans in one way or other, in the name of defending it against aggression and in the name of offering it economical and technical aid. All that is to pave the way to bring it into the Western bloc, either through the Mediterranean pact or by means of the Atlantic Pact."

Referring....

- 3 -

Feb. 22, 23 and 24, 1951.

Referring to McGhee's visit to Egypt and to the press report that he is carrying an Anglo-American agreement for the use of the British air bases in Egypt by American planes, the paper adds, "It seems that the results of the Istanbul conference are seriously affecting the existence, security and fate of the Arab states. The air network to be set up in the area means harm to it..."

*

Commenting on the Istanbul conference, Al-Nabaa presumes that the American envoys must have discussed the alternative of binding the area to the North Atlantic Treaty or to set up the Mediterranean bloc. It believes that Turkey prefers to have the leadership of the Mediterranean bloc; but, the main two obstacles to such a pact is the Alexandretta Province problem and the Palestine question.

*

"How the West may win the confidence of the Arab world?" asks Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi (2/22) in the headline of its editorial. The answer is that it "should stop defying the Arabs' right and aspirations."

When the Arabs sided with the Democratic powers against the Axis, they were aware that the former were not sinless. However, they hoped a change of attitude towards the Arab world. Even, this hope has been disappointed because of Palestine and of the French rule of North Africa.

*

Speaking of the "peace crusade", Salman Shaikh Daud, writing in Al-Hawadith (2/24), remarks that "Moscow trumpets peace day and night." But, the matter is whether it is "earnest or not." Indeed, peace is the desire of all. If Moscow were "earnest", everyone would have backed it. It is true that there are some Western statesmen who are promoting war in order to control the world, but they would have been a neglected minority, if the Soviet policy was not resorting to expansionism and conquest by force.

*

After assailing the Jews of Iraq as "intruders", blaming their business partners for their patronage, and deplored the slowness of their exodus, Liwa Al-Istiqlal (2/23) comments on rumors that the period of the denationalization law will be extended. It warns, "Any extension of the denationalization law will serve the Jews' ends, will prolong instability in the country and will help them to shake the national economy

- 4 - Feb. 22, 23 and 24, 1951.

and to upset political and economic conditions. The people have to be on the watch to foil any such attempt."

*

Liwa Al-Istiqlal (2/23) believes that the law for settling the disputes over the Muntafik Liwa helps to preserve feudalism. Instead of expropriating the lands from the Sanad holders in order to give them to the "Sirkals", the government should partition them into small lots and give them to the tribesmen themselves. Instead of compensating the expropriated Sanad Holders in kind, the government should do it in cash if they already own more than a maximum limit of lands.

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

DG of Oil Dr. Nadim Al-Pachachi will be leaving for London very shortly. He is to have the case against the I.P.C. instated. During his journey, he will visit Italy and West Germany to promote their trade with Iraq. (Az-Zaman. 2/24)

*

Sixteen deputies have petitioned the government to amend the electoral law so as to have direct elections instead of the present two grades. (Az-Zaman. 2/24)

*

Ali Khalid, former DG of Police and author of the coup d'etat which misfired last February, has petitioned the Council of Ministers to consider his crime of a political nature. (Az-Zaman. 2/24)

*

Sharif Hussain Nasir has been appointed Jordanian Minister in Baghdad. He is to replace Omar Zaki Al-Afuni. (Az-Zaman. 2/24)

*

The B.P.C. is searching for oil wells in the Kerbala area near Wadi Taleyhat and Al-Akeydher. (Az-Zaman. 2/24)

*

Al-Awqat Al-Baghdadiya, of Zaki Ahmed, has resumed publication. This time, the editor is Mohammed Mahdi Aj-Jawahery.

*

Two.....

- 5 - Feb. 22, 23 and 24, 1951.

Two days ago, Camille Chamoun, a Lebanese statesman, arrived in Baghdad. He is at the Zia Hotel. (Al-Akhbar. 2/23)

*

On February 21, the Iraqi trade delegation, which is visiting Pakistan and India, made its first official contact with the Indian government. (Al-Umma. 2/23)

*

The B.P.C. workers have gone on a strike to have wages increased. (Al-Nabaa. 2/23)

*

Abdul Rahman Kheder and Taha Al-Fayadh have returned in Baghdad from the Moslem conference at Karachi. (As-Sijil. 2/23)

* * * * *

E N D

25X1A

D A I L Y R E V I E W

of the

B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Tuesday, February 27, 1951.

* * * * *

FEBRUARY 26 MEETING OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

The Chamber of Deputies convened yesterday morning. It passed the Mortgage Bank Law and the amendment to the Income-Tax Law. Twenty-nine deputies tabled a motion for a direct electoral system.

During the debate on the income-tax amendment, the Independence Party deputies assailed Deputy-Prime Minister Tawfiq As-Suwaidi and accused him of having used his influence to have a refund of taxes paid by the Eastern Tobacco Co. and of having transferred Jamil As-Salam, then DG of Income-Tax, because he was opposed to the refund.

The Deputy-Prime Minister was absent. But, the attack was opened by Siddiq Shanshal; he was followed by Ismail Ghanem and Faiq As-Samerrai.

Ismail Ghanem gave the following figures of income-tax receipts as an evidence of the efficiency of Jamil As-Salam, whom the previous government transferred from the Income-Tax Department to the Financial Inspectorate:

	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Income-Tax Receipts in ID.</u>
Before Salam	1947-48	1,750,000
During	1948-49	2,180,000
During	1949-50	2,375,000
After	1950-51	1,600,000 (Maximum estimates)

Faiq As-Samerrai affirmed that the attorney of the Eastern Tobacco Co. threatened the ex-DG of Income-Tax that he will be transferred unless he subdues, and, indeed, he was transferred. Abdul Karim Al-Uzri, who was the Minister of Finance in the Suwaidi Cabinet, assured the Chamber that his transfer has been effected for some administrative reasons.

Faiq As-Samerrai made a comparison between the share-holders of the Eastern Tobacco Co. and the New Eastern Tobacco Co. as follows:

EASTERN.....

- 2 -

February 27, 1951

EASTERN TOBACCO COMPANY

Name of Shareholders	Number of Shares	Amount in ID.
Towfiq As-Suwaidi	50	5,000
Nuri Fattah	89	8,900
Sulaiman Fattah	74	7,400
Emile Jebrail	112	11,200
Meer Shaul Ibrahim	65	6,500
Abdul Qadir Rashid	4	400
Khedouri Khedouri	2	200

NEW EASTERN TOBACCO COMPANY

Name of Shareholder	Capital Contribution in ID.
Mundher Nuri Fattah	1,000
Louwey Towfiq As-Suwaidi	2,000
Antoine Emile Jebrail	3,000
Najib As-Saigh (Attorney of the Co.)	2,000

After the refund decision became final, the New Eastern Tobacco Co. was joined by Towfiq As-Suwaidi, Sulaiman Fattah, Emile Jabrail, Meer Shaul Ibrahim, Abdul Qadir Rashid, etc.....

Faiq As-Samerrai gave the figures of the Eastern Tobacco Company's profits, in order to demonstrate how they were underestimated while Towfiq As-Suwaidi was Prime Minister. Here are the figures:

Fiscal Year	Amount in ID.
1942-43	36,227.366
1943-44	106,693.225
1944-45	106,954.686
1945-46	107,775.755
1946-47	117,986.401
1947-48	67,805.506
1948-49	30,206.750
1949-50	5,550.764 (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

* * *

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Commenting on the Istanbul conference of the U.S. envoys in the Near East, Al-Awqat Al-Baghda says its "main" purpose is to "exploit the Middle East economically and militarily for the war which the Western camp is earnestly striving for and is resorting to every possible means to plunge into it the greatest number of peoples."

The West.....

- 3 - February 27, 1951.

The West is endeavoring to "break down the growing popular resistance to it" in order to get fuller control of the area. Indeed, such conferences "unveils" the fact that the "Western imperialists" are preparing a new world war.

Pointing out that the Arab states have not been consulted in the matters discussed at the conference, although they are related to the area, the paper says, "The fact, that the Imperialists overlook the will of the Arab peoples because of the present Arab governments, is a strong evidence of these governments' neglect of the matters pertaining to their people."

*

Commenting on a France-Presse report that at the Istanbul conference the American Ambassador in Riyadh informed them of King Ibn Saud's opposition to the Fertile Crescent Plan, Al-Yaqdha believes that the correspondent must be either "a Jew or pro-Jew", because the matter has been put aside following the proposal of Syrian Premier Qudsi for Arab federation to the Arab League. Indeed, any bilateral union is meant to be but a step forward to the overall unity of the Arab world.

*

Speaking of the "tyrannic French imperialism" in Morocco, Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi says that France believes its tyrannic rule of Morocco is "eternal" and it can kill the spirit of liberation and independence of the Moroccans. The French have "invented a new theme to defame the nationalist movement in Morocco; they are accusing the Sultan and his supporters of Communism."

*

Voicing support to the recent parliamentary motion for a direct electoral system, Sada Al-Ahali says that the proposal represents "a sound trend" for amending the electoral law. The matter has become a "popular demand".

The paper concludes, "The direct electoral system, which is the right way to any really fair elections, is one of the main pillars for building democracy in Iraq. To adopt it will be an important factor to enable the electors to exercise their right properly and will be a guarantee that their will will be respected. Moreover, it will make more difficult for the government to meddle with elections."

* * *

SHORT.....

- 4 - February 27, 1951.

SHORT NEWS.

The Syrian trade delegation will be leaving Iraq next Thursday upon concluding his talks with the Iraqi government about an economic agreement. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

*

Yahya Qassim, editor of Ash-Shaab, left for Basra where he is to stay three days. (Ash-Shaab)

*

Najib Ar-Rawi, Iraq Minister in Cairo, is due in Baghdad next Thursday. The reason of his visit to Baghdad is unknown. (Al-Nabaa)

*

Premier Nuri As-Said will return in Baghdad next Thursday. He is going to Egypt early next month, where he will stay a week. However, he will not go to London, as rumored. (Al-Hawadith)

* * * * *

E N D.

D A I L Y R E V I E W

of the

B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Sunday, February 25, 1951
Monday, February 26, 1951

* * * * *

PREMIER'S CRUISE IN PERSIAN GULF.

After inaugurating the Basra Branch of the Constitutional Union Party, Premier Nuri As-Said has gone on a cruise in the Persian Gulf on board of the "Ahmadi" Yacht, renamed "Queen Aliya". He is attended by Dr. Shua Jaffar, Minister of Works and Communications and by Dr. Drew, his private physician.

As for Education Minister Khalil Kanna and Justice Minister Hassan Sami Tatar, they have returned in Baghdad with the other members of the Constitutional Union Party who attended the inauguration of the Basra Branch. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi.

2/26)

* * *

30 DEPUTIES DEMAND FOR ONE-STAGE ELECTIONS.

In pursuit of genuine representation of the people", 30 deputies are to table a motion in parliament asking for one-stage elections. They believe that the present electoral law, although a "step forward" in comparison to the previous one, "should be abolished and replaced by a new one based on direct elections."

Ten reasons are put forth; and they are as follows:

1) Such a system simplifies elections, shortens their period, and is easier for the interested parties.

2) It is more in accordance with the Constitution which provides for everyone the right to vote, as the present law compels primary electors to waive their right in favor of secondary electors who may act as it pleases them.

3) Direct elections allow more genuine representation of the people.

4) They establish a closer relationship between the deputy and his electors.

5) They compel deputies to take more care of their electors.

6).....

- 2 -

February 25 and 26, 1951

6) They make it more difficult for the Government to meddle with them as it is not easy to influence thousands of electors.

7) They help to bring home to electors the meaning of elections because the electors will have to make their choice among few candidates instead of the long list of secondary electors.

8) They promote a genuine parties system, as parties will have to appeal to the people themselves.

9) They appeal to the public more because the public is directly interested in them.

10) It is the system adopted by all governments seeking to promote democratic life.

In the end, they conceded that some obstacles will have to be overcome, but the benefits are "incommensurate", foremost promoting a "genuine parliamentary life", which is the "basis of any real reform."

The deputies to sign the motion are:

Edward Georgie, Basra
Ismail Ghanem, Baghdad
Jaffar Al-Qazwini, Hilla
Jaffar Al-Mugotar, Diwaniya
Jamal Al-Mufti, Mosul
Hanna Khayyat, Mosul
Dhiban Al-Ghabban, Baghdad
Rafiq As-Sayid Isa, Muntafik
Salem Jaffar, Basra
Sami Shawkat, Kut
Saad Omar, Kerbala
Salman Al-Ibrahim, Basra
Saleh Bahr El-Oloum, Kerbala
Sabih Mumtaz, Baghdad
Abdul Razzaq Al-Uzri, Diwaniya
Abdul Samad Al-Bechari, Basra
Abdul Latif Jaffar, Basra
Abdul Karim Al-Uzri, Muntafik
Abdul Hadi Al-Bechari, Basra
Obeid Al-Haj Khalaf, Kut
Izzat Murad Al-Shaikh, Baghdad
Izzidin Al-Naqib, Diyala
Ali Kadhem Abul Temman, Baghdad
Ghazi El-Elli, Baghdad
Faiq As-Samerrai, Baghdad
Qassim Al-Mufti, Mosul
Mohammed Jewad Jaffar, Baghdad
Mohammed Jewad Haidar, Muntafik
Mohammed Siddiq Shanshal, Mosul
Mohammed Mandi Kubba, Baghdad

- 3 - February 25 and 26, 1951.

SALEH JABR DENOUNCES SECTARIANISM.

Pointing out that the electoral campaign in Lebanon is based on sectarianism, Ash-Shaab (2/26) says that on this occasion Saleh Jabr was asked for his opinion about sectarianism.

Senator Saleh Jabr stated, "It is very grave to base politics on sectarianism or to use it as a political means. Sectarianism by itself is reactionary and is exploited by reactionaries, opportunists and the enemies of progress in order to attain their ends in backward societies, where ignorance prevails. It tears the country into helpless pieces..."

"Sectarianism is a subversive movement to be fought by all means and to be eliminated. Any sectarianists should be fought without respite..... Reformists of any sect, race, party or group should promote Iraqi unity and fraternity among all Iraqis....."

After quoting the Constitution and the Koran, Senator Saleh Jabr said, "Iraqis, whether Arab or Kurd, and Moslem or non-Moslem, should behave as one people and one country, united in their same goal of making the country progress and of raising the living standard of all.

"If, nevertheless, groups have to be established, they should be based on social, economic and political principles and by means of political parties comprising the persons who believe in the same principles and in the same political methods for achieving them." (Ash-Shaab. 2/26)

* * *

THE JEWISH EXODUS.

Whether the period for the denationalization law of the Jews will be extended or not is not yet known. More than one government official has told Az-Zaman that the matter has not yet been discussed by the Council of Ministers.

However, the date limit for accepting applications has been set for February 25 by order of the Police Director of Travels. The applications signed in Baghdad only amount to about 35,000, noting that a whole family has one application form. That is why, no accurate estimates may be given about the number of applicants. But, as the date limit is nearing, their number is increasing; and the officials in charge are forced to work late during the night.

The.....

- 4 - February 25 and 26, 1951.

The delayed departure of denationalized Jews is due to the fact that the applications including persons born between 1912 and 1932 were put aside; thus, the other members of the family were held up. (Az-Zaman. 2/26)

*

According to a Beirut message of the ANA, the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine has appealed to all the Arab states to stop the emigration of Jews to Israel. It expresses the fear that Israel will enlist them in its army and may use their knowledge of the Arabic language and of the Arab customs to harm the Arab states. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal. 2/25)

*

Pointing out that almost 100,000 Jews have applied for emigration and that two thirds of them, although denationalized, are still here, Liwa Al-Istiqlal (2/25) urges the government to place them in concentration camps so that they will not commit any act of sabotage. Moreover, it asks that their money be freezed. It believes that the Jews in Iraq are acting on directives from Israel.

* * *

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE.

Believing that the Arabs' glory has dwindled because they were diverted from Islam, Ali Mahmud Shaikh Ali, writing in Az-Zaman about the Moslem conference of Karachi, deplores that the Karachi conference led to "tragi-comedic" decisions, foremost to consider any aggression against any Moslem state as being against the whole Islamic world. The conference, says the writer, has missed the point that the Islamic is being the object of continual aggression and outrage and that the authors thereof are their very allies. Indeed, Islam does neither approve of Communism nor of any serfdom. The conference should warn the authors of past and future acts of aggression.

*

Speaking of the Karachi conference, Taha Al-Fayadh, who attended it, blames the Iraqi conference for having failed to send a governmental delegation or to have instructed its Charge d'Affaires to attend the conference as the other Moslem states did.

He is gratified that the Moslem delegates concurred in their views. All- he says, complained of the fact that Islamic precepts are not fully followed. It is gratified by the decision of the conference to consider any aggression against any

- 5 - February 25 and 26, 1951.

Islamic country as against all of them. Thus, he says, the Islamic countries' security is guaranteed.

Pointing to the fact that a committee, with headquarters in Pakistan, has charge of seeing that the conference's decisions are carried out, the writer concludes that it is an evidence that the decisions will not be left "ink on paper".

In the end, he hails the conference as "an international Islamic organization." (As-Sijil. 2/25 and 2/26)

* * *

MOROCCO.

Commenting on an ANA report about the possibility of deporting the Moroccan Sultan if he persists in his opposition to France, Al-Alam Al-Arabi says that it is funny that Sharq Al-Adna, which broadcast the news item, tries to describe French Imperialism as a factor of democracy and justice.

What is taking place in Morocco is part of the overall plan to build up the so-called free world in subjugated countries. Indeed, the Eleven Government has sold Morocco to the American imperialism against million of dollars. What France is doing in North Africa has been decided in Washington and approved by London.

What is still more amazing is the silence kept by the Arab League. It connotes a tacit approval and that the Arabs have no more honor.

*

Liwa Al-Istiqlal (2/26) believes that the French move in Morocco is meant to strengthen French control and France has seized the opportunity that the U.S. is asking for air bases there. France is trying to persuade that the defense against Communism will be jeopardized if Communism acts through the Moroccan Independence Party. But, the Moroccan Independence Party, as any other Arab nationalist party, cannot be Communist, but fights imperialism, and is, in fact, for liberation.

The Arab League has sufficed itself with the memorandum to the U.S. But, this is not enough; the Arab states ought to act; they should approach the U.S., which is immediately responsible for the situation, and they should adopt the necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such an aggression.

* * *

SHORT.....

- 6 -

February 25 and 26, 1951.

SHORT NEWS.

Al-Hawadith (2/26) reports:

Iraq was invited to the Labor conference to be held in Tehran on March 10. But, the Arab League Political Committee decided that the Arab states should participate in the conference while completely ignoring the presence of the Israeli delegates.

Today, we have learned that the government has been notified by the ILO that the conference has been postponed sine die. It is understood that the matter has been left up to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It will have to decide whether to attend the conference or not.

*

The World Bank mission arrived in Baghdad on Sunday.
(Sada Al-Ahali. 2/26)

*

The Syro-Iraqi trade talks may be said to have reached their final stage. (Az-Zaman. 2/26)

*

Camille Shamoun, of Lebanon, left Baghdad after a short visit. (Az-Zaman. 2/26)

*

This Monday, the Chamber of Deputies is convening.
(Ash-Shaab. 2/26)

*

This coming Tuesday, the Senate is convening. (Al-Nabaa.
2/25)

* * * * *

E N D

D A I L Y R E V I E W
of the
B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

February 28, 1951.

* * * * *

PREMIER NURI AS-SAID'S CRUISE.

Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi reports that Premier Nuri As-Said began his cruise in the Persian Gulf on Monday, February 26, and it is "to last more than a week."

* * *

FEBRUARY 27 MEETING OF THE SENATE.

The Senate convened yesterday morning. It was presided by Second Vice-President Hibatulla Mufti. It passed the following laws:

- 1) Ordinance No. 2 of 1950 for Exemption of Income-Tax;
- 2) Ordinance No. 3 of 1950 amending the Farm Machinery and Implements Law No. 32 of 1949;
- 3) Ordinance No. 4 for Addition of Funds to the 1950 Budget;
- 4) Law Establishing a Provident Fund for Municipalities. (Ash-Shaab)

* * *

GENERAL SUPPORT VOICED FOR DIRECT ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

Ash-Shaab hails the 30 deputies' parliamentary motion for direct elections as "more than a good step" which will have the support of all those aware of the need for reforms. However, the paper would like the deputies to secure the women's right to vote as a preliminary step towards granting them the right of being elected to parliament.

*

Speaking of the parliamentary motion, Al-Umma clamors, "During the parliamentary life in Iraq, Iraqis has not received any action or proposal of parliament with so much enthusiasm and support."

Criticizing.....

- 2 -

February 28, 1951.

Criticizing the present electoral system, the paper adds, "The source of public satisfaction is due to the present parliamentary life and to the present electoral system, if ever it deserves to be called so. The present system does not fit with a genuine democratic system and the spirit of the Constitution."

The paper concludes, "In the end, we have to point to one fact which may be forgotten by the authorities. It is that the concept of direct elections will inevitably be carried out, despite the obstacles and the handicaps it may encounter. Indeed, this concept will be realized sooner or later."

*

Pointing to the "unanimous support" to the 30 deputies' motion, Al-Nabaa does "neither see it strange nor amazing". The people want the "distorted democracy imposed upon them" to be changed. Moreover, this is an opportunity for the party in power to prove its sincere desire for "drastic reform." Indeed, genuine parliamentary life is a sine qua non condition for such a reform.

*

Al-Yaqdha says that the ten reasons set forth by the 30 deputies are unquestionable. Indeed, we cannot convince ourselves that elections allow the people to express their will as we are "amidst the farce being staged."

* * *

MISCELLANEOUS EDITORIALS.

Stressing the popular opposition to the French rule in Morocco under the leadership of the Sultan and the Independence Party, Sada Al-Ahali says that the Moroccans want to live an honorable and free life. They are asking for their natural right to self-determination and for getting rid of the air bases network set up by the U.S. in agreement with France."

*

Answering Ali Mahmud Shaikh Ali's criticism that religions are the cause of decadence on the occasion of the Karachi conference, Taha Al-Fayadh, writing in As-Sijil, says that the decadence of the Islamic world is not due to Islam but the politicians who have compromised with the Imperialists. The Arabs' glory is due to Islam.

* * *

SHORT.....

- 3 -

February 28, 1951.

SHORT NEWS.

The following changes have been ordered in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

Rufail Butti is transferred to Cairo as Press Counselor; Ahmed Gailani, from the Ministry to London as Attaché; Faisal Damaluji, First Attaché in London, to the Ministry; Safaa Abdul Wahab, Attaché in Brussels, to Amman; Khalil Ad-Daghistani, from the Ministry to Rome; Kamal Jawad, from Rome to Brussels as Attaché; Jihad As-Soz, from Rome to Brussels as Attaché. (Az-Zaman)

*

Following the incidents in Morocco, the Iraq Government has instructed its Minister in Paris to "inform" the French government that in its capacity as member of the Arab League Iraq "deems that such a pressure (on the Sultan) does not fit with the nationalist policy of supporting the other Arab states." (Az-Zaman)

*

The B.P.C. workers are still on strike. The Minister of Social Affairs has delegated the DG of Labor, Abdul Razzaq Ibrahim, and Labor Expert, Mr. Hull to investigate the causes of the strike. (Az-Zaman).

*

Ahmed Ar-Rawi is leaving tomorrow for Amman to take up his post. (Ash-Shaab).

*

Hearings of the case of Ghadban As-Saad began. The magistrate of the Baghdad Penal Code has ordered his detention. He is a former army officer and is being tried on a charge of promoting Communism for his writing the confiscated book, "Korea in the Parade of Freedom." (Al-Alam Al-Arabi)

* * * * *

E N D

25X1A

D A I L Y R E V I E W

of the

B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Friday, February 9, 1951
Saturday, February 10, 1951

* * * * *

FEBRUARY 8 MEETING OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

On Thursday, February 8, the Chamber of Deputies convened. Nine new questions were put to the government; Arkan Al-Abadi is inquiring about the Arab League session, Abdul Kerim Kanna about the Government's stand on the Qudsi plan, and Ahmed Hamed Al-Naqib about the location of the oil refinery.

The Prime Minister and the Deputy-Prime Minister were absent. The meeting was attended by the Ministers of Interior, of Works and Communications, of Finance, of Social Affairs, of Justice and of Economics.

The Royal Iradas appointing Towfiq As-Suwaidi to the Deputy-Premiership and Omar Nadhmi to the Interior were read out to advise the Chamber of the cabinet change. Independence Party Leader Mohammed Mahdi Kubba commented on the appointment of Suwaidi saying, "I do say that the root of the evil is the political extemporaneousness in forming, reshuffling or patching the cabinet..... It is mostly felt, and it is an inevitable consequence, in the manner cabinets are formed out of members who differ in their political principles and line and who have no man-to-man understanding....." He recalled that Suwaidi resigned from the Premiership because he differed with the "Major Party" (Constitutional Union Party) in parliament.

Then, the Chamber was advised of the receipt of a draft law for setting a skins association, which was forwarded to the Committee of Economic Affairs.

Answering Siddiq Shanshal's question about the Tobacco Monopoly, Economics Minister Abdul Majid Mahmud pointed that the present system has benefited both the tobacco growers and the government. He announced that a new law is under preparation for a full monopolistic system.

The Chamber, then, switched to the Ordinance of Farm Machinery and Implements. Matta Akrawi, Qassim Al-Mufti, and Abdul Kerim Kanna expressed their displeasure from the fact that the government has resorted to an ordinance; Kanna suggested that the Chamber turns it down to force the government to act within its powers only.

The.....

- 2 -

February 9 and 10, 1951

The Minister of Finance explained that the government had prepared a draft law for submission to parliament, but as it went into recess the government has been forced to resort to an ordinance to enable agents to import farm machinery and equipments.

However, no vote was taken on the ordinance for lack of quorum; and the Chamber adjourned until Monday, February 12. (Az-Zaman. 2/9)

* * *

KING AND REGENT LEAVING ALEXANDRIA TODAY.

In their itinerary to London, King Faisal, Regent Abdul Ilah, and the Royal Party arrived in Beirut on February 7. They boarded the Italian ship, "Esperia", and sailed to Egypt; they arrived in Alexandria on February 9 and will be leaving it on Saturday (today). (Az-Zaman. 2/9 and 10)

* * *

STUDENT DELEGATIONS' VISITS.

Iraqi college students have seized the opportunity of the mid-year vacation for visiting neighboring countries, such as Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Iran. On the other hand, Turkish students of the Universities of Ankara and Istanbul and Syrian students of the Damascus University have come to Baghdad. (Ed.)

*

Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi (2/9), commenting on this exchange of visits, stresses the importance of inter-people understanding in modern times. This understanding should begin with neighboring countries with whom we have common features and historicalities. The student delegations' visits are a preliminary step to it, because it helps both sides to know each other. In the end, the paper stresses the facilities provided by the Ministry of Education to work out these trips.

* * *

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Commenting on General Robertson's visit to the Arab capitals, Sada Al-Ahali (2/9) sees in it an "indication that the British plans (for binding the Arab states to the West camp) have entered a practical phase, or rather the preliminary political talks have been concluded and they are being implemented now."

After. . . .

- 3 -

February 9 and 10, 1951.

After emphasizing that "Britain, the U.S., and France are overlooking the desires of the peoples of the Arab states for being spared the war catastrophes, as long as they control the ruling class governing them", the paper says, "The Arab peoples consider General Robertson's visit as connected with the disquietening and serious developments pertaining to the security of their countries and meant to plunge them into the volcano of the coming war despite their will. They censure the weak stand of their politicians towards Britain and the U.S. They deem that this stand is inconsistent with the desired neutrality necessary to their security against the war scourges and which has become a unanimously popular demand, because it is the only path to safety amidst the imminent menaces threatening their countries. The Arab countries are in strong need for a popular movement for neutrality to resist these plans."

*

Commenting on the exchange of notes concerning the four-power conference, Sada Al-Ahali (2/9) says, "While the latest Soviet note paves the way to a four-power conference likely to alleviate the international tension, the U.S. Secretary of State has criticized it and accused the Soviet Union of restricting the talks. This means that the conference question will remain the object of give-and-take. No doubt, the U.S. wants to gain time for completing the integration of Germany into the North Atlantic group and of German units into the European army. Then the conference will be of no use, and this will be a drawback for the cause of world peace."

*

Mohammed Ridha Ash-Shibibi, writing in Az-Zaman (2/10) about the Arab League communique, believes that the Arab states should have adopted a more "explicit" attitude regarding the East-West conflict.

He sees in it a confession that the big powers are intervening in the Arab states' domestic affairs; and, therefore, he suggests that the League should strive for enhancing their independence.

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

On Thursday, Finance Minister Abdul Wahab Merjan, National Bank Governor Abdui Ilah Hafidh, and his assistant, Dr. Salih Haidar, conferred with Mr. Gamble, the British Commercial Attaché, about the sterling balances. Mr. Waight, representative of the British Treasury, is at present in Tehran and is expected here on Monday. (Az-Zaman. 2/10)

*

General.....

- 4 - February 9 and 10, 1951.

General Saad Al Nashini is expected today from Cairo.
(Sada Al-Ahali. 2/9)

*

Minister without Portfolio Mohammed Hassan Kubba has written to the authorities concerned that he gives up the import licences granted to him. (Al-Umma. 2/9)

*

The Pakistan Legation announces that the Iraqi trade delegation, led by Ali Mumtaz, has arrived in Karachi for trade talks. (Al-Umma. 2/9)

*

Camille Shamoun, of Lebanon, is expected in Baghdad.
(Al-Alam Al-Arabi. 2/9)

*

Ex-Chief of Staff Hussain Fawzi has told the AP correspondent that Iraq could have 50,000 men under arms, if provided with the necessary equipment. (Al-Akhbar. 2/9)

* * * * *

E N D

25X1A

D A I L Y R E V I E W

of the

B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Sunday, February 11, 1951
Monday, February 12, 1951

* * * * *

REGENT AND KING LEAVE ALEXANDRIA. REGENT TO STAY ONE MONTH
IN ENGLAND.

On Saturday, February 10, King Faisal and Regent Abdul
Ilah left Alexandria on board of the "Esperia".

During a two-hour audience, AL Secretary-General Abdul
Rahman Azzam told the Regent about his consultations in the U.S.
and Italy. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi. 2/12)

*

King Faisal stated in Alexandria that his trip is "very
hard" for him as it is the first time he is leaving his country
without his mother. He is feeling her absence everywhere, but
"his only consolation is the great affection which my people
gave me to substitute my mother's."

The Regent stated that he will remain beside the King
in England a month. Speaking of reforms, the Regent said that
Iraq is lending particular attention to strengthening and
equipping its army. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi. 2/11)

* * *

END OF STATE OF WAR WITH GERMANY.

Az-Zaman (2/12) reports, "We reported in a previous issue
that the Council of Ministers decided to end the state of war
with Germany proclaimed since 1940. We add now that this will
be effected by a Royal Irada."

* * *

ECONOMICS MINISTER ABDUL MAJID MAHMUD BECOMES DEPUTY.

In the by-election to fill the vacancy for the electoral
district of Afeq (Diwaniya Liwa) arising from the death of
Sa'dun Ar-Resen, tribal chieftain of Al-Lekra', Economics Minister
Abdul Majid Mahmud has won the seat uncontested following the
withdrawal of Sheikh Resen Al-Fahad, the new chief of Al-Lekra'.
(Al-Naba 2/12)

- 3 - February 11 and 12, 1951.

THE PROPHET'S SEPULCHER.

Prompted by Egyptian Premier Nahas Pasha's appeal over the Cairo radio to all Moslems to contribute to the repairs of the mosque where the Prophet's sepulcher lies in Medina as 12 of its 237 columns are threatening to fall, Al-Yaodha (2/11) thanks Egypt for drawing the Islamic people's attention to the fact and urges the formation of committees for raising the needed funds.

*

"No Moslem, whether Arab or not, and no Arab, whether Moslem or not," asserts Liwa Al-Istiqlal (2/12) "have heard of the Saudi government's neglectness of the Prophet's sepulcher without anger and without wishing to have a share in its maintenance..... It seems that the Saudi government prefers to build up huge castles for its Emirs, Ministers, and followers rather than to discharge its trusteeship of the sepulcher of the Prophet, the leader of all the Arabs."

Anyhow, concludes the paper, we have to contribute to the repairs for averting the danger threatening the Prophet's sepulcher.

* * *

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Ash-Shaab (2/11) sees signs of activities in the Middle East. The Anglo-Egyptian treaty negotiations are to be resumed. General Robertson is touring Arab capitals.

The view to form a military force out of the Arab states for fulfilling some defensive tasks in the area is gaining proponents in the U.S. and Britain. Considered in the light of facts, the Arab League communique shows the Arab governments' inclination to accept defensive duties.

*

Speaking of the weakness of the Middle East in reference to an article published in the Daily Telegraph, Al-Akhbar (2/11) holds the U.S. and Britain responsible for it because they have denied the Arab states arms to which they are entitled under the treaty provisions.

*

Writing in Al-Hawadith (2/12), Salman Shaikh Daud is blasting the British policy towards the Arabs. He says that "an important secret has been unveiled"; Weizmann, in his memoirs, has disclosed that the mandate imposed on the Arab states was to enable Zionism to gain a foothold in Palestine. Salman concludes that.....

- 4 - February 11 and 12, 1951.

that we should not believe what the British pretended that Palestine was given to the Jews under American pressure. The whole case is one of "conspiracy between the British and the Zionists since the Balfour Declaration."

*

The Independence Party, says Liwa Al-Istiqlal (2/11), stated its opinion about the recent cabinet reshuffle, its spokesman was its leader, Mohammed Mahdi Kubba, at the Chamber of Deputies last Thursday. The government did not reply feeling that he is right.

Then the paper compares the cabinet posts to a chess board without telling who is the player, saying, "There are chess pawns placed now and then on the board, or rather on the political stage; afterwards, they are removed to a store where they are kept available for any role to be played."

Describing the people's feeling towards this game, it says, "The people is watching; but he is annoyed by its repetition. It is resenting it and expresses this sentiment whenever the opportunity avails itself."

As for the "chess pawns", the paper says, "The members of the Ruling Class are content with their lot. They consent to be brought in and removed from the cabinet with no reason they know except that their role is over. They cannot complain, lest they may be excommunicated and lose their influence congenital to ministerial offices and the consequent power to satisfy personal desires....."

This state of affairs, asserts the paper, is "widening day after day the immense gap" between the Ruling Class and the People. Indeed, points out the paper, the Ruling Class' mentality is "deteriorating"; under the Mandate, some of them were opposing the Imperialistic Policy while in power; but, nowadays they are paving the way for its achieving its goals. As the popular consciousness has increased in the postwar years, the mentality of the Ruling Class is to be "blamed"; it is "so magically attracted by cabinet posts that they have become ends by themselves instead of remaining the means for reform and public service."

*

As agricultural resources are considered as an important part of our national wealth, says Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi (2/12), the government is giving particular attention to the agricultural renaissance. The first step in this direction is the mechanization of the production means. As Iraq is short of technical hands, the government has appealed to international organizations and to ~~Approved For Release 2002/01/18 : CIA-RDP83-00415R007700120003-0~~ two....

- 5 - February 11 and 12, 1951.

two agreements have been concluded last month, one with the American "CARE" organization and the other with the FAO.

Thus, Iraq, with this technical aid, will be able to launch projects of land reclamation and to expand the area under cultivation.

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi (2/12) announces that the Basra Branch of the Constitutional Union Party will be inaugurated on February 23.

*

The Council of Ministers has approved a list for 58 denationalized Jews, including 32 government officials. (Az-Zaman. 2/12)

*

Minister-designate to Amman Ahmed Ar-Rawi has been granted 20-day leave. (Az-Zaman. 2/12).

*

The Chamber of Deputies is meeting this morning. (Ash-Shaab. 2/12)

* * * * *

E N D

25X1A

D A I L Y R E V I E W

of the

B A G H D A D / P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Tuesday, February 13, 1951

* * * * *

FEBRUARY 12 MEETING OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

Yesterday, the Chamber of Deputies convened and was unable to do much work due to absenteeism. The Vice-President, who was in the chair, announced the receipt of new questions, such as the one of Siddiq Shanshal about the possibility for cabinet members to have as the same time their business, and of new draft laws. The draft laws are: 1) the teachers' service bill, 2) the ratification of the agreement concluded with CARE, and 3) the law for the settlement of the land disputes in the Muntafik Liwa.

However, the Chamber approved the Ordinance amending the Farm Machinery and Implements Law. The vote was 62 for and 15 against. The negative votes were cast by Abdul Samad Bechari, Abdul Kerim Kanna, Abdul Majid Al-Qassab, Ali Abul Timman, Faiq As-Samerrai, Qassim Al-Mufti, Siddiq Sharshal, Mohammed Mahdi Kubba, Ismail Ghanem, Towfiq Al-Mukhtar, Husamiddin Jum'a, Razzouq Shammas, Salman Al-Ibrahim, Ahmed Al-Naqib, and Mohammed Moshhen Al-Hardan.

The next item on the agenda was the Ordinance for the Export Tax on Dates. The opposition set forth three arguments. Siddiq Shanshal branded it as "unconstitutional". Ahmed Al-Naqib, Salman Al-Ibrahim and Edward Georgie stressed that in order to encourage exports such a tax should be lifted. Ahmed Al-Naqib and Salman Al-Ibrahim want Andrew Weir to pay the tax.

The answer to the three-point criticism came from Dhiya Jaffar, the Minister of Works and Communications. He contended the unconstitutionality of the ordinance on the ground that the export tax was already enacted by Parliament when the Customs Tariff was amended. Moreover, Andrew Weir refused to pay the tax and to get delivery of dates with the intention of revoking the contract. Thus, the Ordinance was made necessary.

When the Ordinance was put to vote, the quorum was missing. The Chamber adjourned until Thursday, February 15. (Az-Zaman)

* * *

THE LAW.....

- 2 -

February 13, 1951.

THE LAW FOR THE MUNTAFIK LANDS.

The Chamber of Deputies has just announced to have received a draft law for the settlement of the land disputes in the Muntafik Liwa. This law, says the explanatory memorandum attached thereto, has been necessitated by the long-standing land disputes dating since the Ottoman regime and left outstanding by the law of 1929.

The problem has arisen from the fact that the Tapu Sanads for the grant in Tapu of Miri lands are held by persons other than the occupants who are cultivating them and who have, thus, acquired some rights on the lands in accordance with tribal practice and custom.

The solution of the problem, as outlined by the draft law, is to compensate in cash or kind the Sanad holders as to be decided by the Council of Ministers in every case and to grant the Miri lands in Lazma to the occupants as it is unwise to make tribesmen emigrate from lands where they are settled. (Az-Zaman)

* * *

PRIME MINISTER IS SICK.

Premier Nuri As-Said is sick. He is having a high blood pressure. He has been advised to stay at home for few days. Thus, he apologizes for cancelling all appointments. (Az-Zaman)

* * *

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Siddiq Rassoul Al-Qaderi, Qaimaqam of Rowanduz, has been made Administrative Inspector.

Salman Abdul Wahab Al-Khattab, Mudir Nahiya of Abu Seida, has been made Qaimaqam of Mendeli.

Omran Miran Qader, alternate magistrate in Erbil, has been appointed Qaimaqam of Zibar.

Baqir Ad-Dujaili has been transferred from Mendeli to Mahmudiya as Qaimaqam. Akram Ahmed from Mahmudiya to Suweira as Qaimaqam. Khalil Taher Ar-Radhi from Suweira to Hai as Qaimaqam. Mustafa Asem Ismail from the Kirkuk Qadha to Hindiya, as Qaimaqam. Jamal Rifaat from Hindiya to Sulaimaniya Qadha, as Qaimaqam. (Az-Zaman)

* * *

APPEAL.....

- 3 -

February 13, 1951.

APPEAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REPAIRS OF THE MECCA MOSQUE.

The following appeal has been launched by Asem Al-Gailani, Chief Notable of Baghdad:

"Moslems, in their native homelands and in their countries of emigration, have been alarmed by recent reports that the pillars of the Mosque of the Apostle of God (may God bless and preserve him) threaten to fall.

"We exalt H.M. King Faruk for his Royal patronage of the special Egyptian committee which H.E. Mustafa Nahas Pasha has proposed to form to raise funds for consolidating the pillars of the dearest Kiblah in the Islamic world. We extol the great Egyptian Government for opening a credit of 10,000 pounds for covering the expenses of the preliminary repairs.

"We urge all Moslems to raise contributions for this noble enterprise dictated by Islamic dignity in order to preserve the most sacred symbol of Islam throughout the ages.

"We ought to remind Moslems of the holy versus that "Mosques are for God" and "O sons of Adam, adorn every mosque". Is it necessary to elaborate on the duty of preserving the preeminent temple of God? (Az-Zaman)

* * *

WORLD ISLAMIC CONFERENCE.

Speaking of Islam on the occasion of the Islamic conference being held at Karachi, Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi underscores that Islam is "a political, social and economic doctrine of the first class", that it is "the religion of unity and of complete brotherhood, and is a major force appealing for peace, love, freedom and equality", that "for many centuries it was the vanguard of civilization", and that it "remained strong despite the Moslems' weakness and preserved their language, traditions and beliefs."

Switching to the conference itself, the paper says, "International conditions are on the side of the blessed movement represented by the Islamic conference at Karachi. The delegates have to act earnestly and staunchly for inter-Moslem understanding and to lay down adequate plans for their cooperation and for coordinating their struggle. They will succeed if they display good will." The paper, then, quotes one of the delegates saying that Moslems should unite to show the world that the proper remedy for the present ills is Islam, and it is neither Communism nor Capitalism.

* * *

SHORT.....

- 4 -

February 13, 1951.

SHORT NEWS.

Commenting on the Qudsi Plan, Hussain Jamil finds it "a very good hope" but "unrealistic". (Az-Zaman)

*

The Ministry of Works and Communications has forwarded to the Council of Ministers the bilateral Egyptian-Iraqi civil air agreement prior to its signing by both parties. (Az-Zaman)

*

The Ministry of Interior has permitted to the "Jemiyat Al-Khadamat Ad-Diniya Wal Ijtimayia" (Society of the Social and Religious Services) to raise the sum of ID. 1,500 for establishing a religious institute in Baghdad. (Al-Hawadith)

*

The members of the preparations committee of the conference of the Arab chambers of commerce have arrived in Baghdad. They are Ali Shukri Khamis Beg, President of the Alexandria Chamber, Emir Malek Shehab, Technical Adviser of the Beirut Chamber and Secretary of the Preparations Committee, and Najib Beg Meqia, President of the Tripoli Chambers. (Ash-Shaab)

* * * * *

E N D

D A I L Y R E V I E W

of the

B A G H D A D P R E S S

25X1A

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

February 14, 1951.

* * * * *

KING AND REGENT ARRIVE IN NAPOLI AND PROCEED TO GENOA.

A Napoli message says that King Faisal and Regent Abdul Ilah arrived there on board of the "Esperia" and proceeded to Genoa. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

* * *

LEBANESE CABINET RESIGNS.

After a meeting of the Council of Ministers, Lebanese Premier Riad Al-Solh went to the President to tender his resignation. The caretaker government, to supervise the new elections, will be formed by Hussain Al-Uwaini. (Liwa Al-Istiqlal)

* * *

DENATIONALIZATION OF JEWS.

It has been advertized on the door of the Meer Tuweig Synagogue that applications for denationalization will not be accepted after February 20.

As in the Liwas, the Mutasarrifs were instructed by the Minister of Interior to set the date limit of February 14, in order to send the lists to the Council of Ministers for action.

Next Saturday, the Council of Ministers will consider lists embodying the names of more than 5,000 persons. Moreover, transportation has been speeded up. The daily average is between 400 and 450 persons. It is understood that more than 27,000 have already left the country. (Az-Zaman)

* * *

ANGLO-IRAQI FINANCIAL TALKS.

Yesterday, Mr. Waight, representative of the British Treasury who returned from Tehran, attended a meeting at the Iraqi National Bank.

A certain optimism is noticed among the Iraqi delegation. (Az-Zaman)

* * *

EDITORIAL.....

- 2 -

February 14, 1951.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Replying to Sada Al-Ahali's comments on its article about Vice-President Barkley's speech in support of Zionism, Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi comments on the Arab League communique, saying:

"It is clear that the Arab League has no other way to choose than the practical one it did. If it sides with either world camp, it loses its political personality and both camps have not been fair to the Arabs in the Palestine question. If it decided neutrality as advocated by the Communists of the world for the benefit of the Soviet camp and as called for by some sentimental nationalists, this neutrality would have been ridiculous in view of their present weakness and their shortage of arms, because neutrality by itself does not prevent from its being violated if required by either camp's interest. Taking into consideration the geographical position of the Arab states and the many resources they have, we find more than one important reason for the conflicting camps to violate the Arabs' neutrality. Therefore, we call on whoever is concerned over the national interest to take into consideration the facts when examining such a matter."

*

"Yesterday's enemies". Under this headline, Ash-Shaab points out that German rehabilitation has been slowed down by France's and Britain's fears; but, the case of Japan is different as there are no such powers to oppose it. Indeed, the U.S. has taken the "risk" of strengthening Japan in order to repel the immediate menace coming from the Soviet Union and China. Thus, Japan is to get the assistance of the U.S. six years after the atomic bomb was thrown on it.

*

After pointing that it has become a commonplace for Western politicians to speak of the security of the Middle East, Sada Al-Ahali comments on the latest speech of British Premier Attlee.

It believes that the "emphasized interest" in the Middle East is arising from the prevailing international crisis. Then, it adds, "The Western powers, beside fanning this conflict directly and indirectly by their plans based on preparation for war, on sticking to outdated regimes and on controlling the world markets, are paving the way to plunge the Arab states and the Eastern nations into the conflict. Their politicians are repeatedly affirming that their security depends on placing the Middle Eastern states in the front line....."

* * * *

SHORT.....

- 3 -

February 14, 1951.

SHORT NEWS.

The Head of the British Near Eastern Section of the British Foreign Office has arrived in Baghdad on a tour of Arab capitals. (Az-Zaman)

*

The Mexican Minister left last Sunday for Beirut. (Az-Zaman)

*

The Syrian trade delegation arrived in Baghdad yesterday afternoon. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

*

According to Al-Yadha, some cabinet members mean to resign. Other rumors say that Mustafa Al-Umary has done it.

* * * * *

F N D

D A I L Y R E V I E W
of the
B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Thursday, February 15, 1951.
25X1A

KING AND REGENT DUE IN LONDON TODAY.

According to the Sharq Al-Adna Radio, King Faisal and Regent Abdul Illah are slated to arrive in London this evening. (Ash-Shaab)

* * *

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

DG of Interior Abdul Hamid Rifaat has applied to the Minister of Interior for retirement. His request will be granted. He will be replaced by Jalal Khalid, Mutasarrif of Sulaimaniya. Rashid Najib, the First Assistant of the DG of Interior and the acting DG of Municipalities, will assume charge of the Mutasarrifiyah of Sulaimaniya.

This will be coupled with a new list of changes among Mutasarrifs and Qaimmaqams. (Al-Nabaa)

*

Khalil Ibrahim, the Second Attaché to the Paris Legation, has been summoned to Baghdad to be put in charge of the Propaganda Department and of the Baghdad Broadcasting Station.

As for Kamal Ibrahim, the present DG of Propaganda, and Hassan Ad-Dujaili, Director of the Baghdad Broadcasting Station, they are to be returned to the cadre of secondary schools. (Al-Nabaa)

*

The Ministry of Interior intends to abolish the posts of Qaimmaqam at the headquarters of the Liwas of Sulaimaniya, Muntifik, Hilla, Amara and Diwaniya. (Al-Nabaa)

* * *

SYRO-IRAQI.....

- 2 -

February 15, 1951.

SYR-IMP. I TRADE TALKS TO BEGIN THIS MORNING.

A three-man Syrian trade delegation has arrived in Baghdad on Tuesday. Yesterday, it laid a wreath on Queen Aliya's grave. The talks will begin this morning. Iraq will be represented by Ali Jaffar, DG of Customs, Dr. Saleh Haidar, Asst. Governor of the National Bank, Zaki Abdul Wahab, act. DG of Imports, Dr. Nadhim Al-Pachachi, DG of Oil Affairs, and Amin Al-Mumayiz, DG of the Arab Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (Al-Umma)

* * *

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Commenting on the report that the Council of Ministers has approved the Ministry of Finance's proposal for forming a governmental imports company, Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi says that the present government has undertaken a "successful step" towards discharging its promises to the people for combatting the prices rise.

This "positive" project will affect the economic life of the country. It will help to curb down prices. It will reactivate the local market by making consumers' goods available.

The paper concludes that "the public has received the Council of Ministers' approval to form an imports company with deep pleasure. It is a new evidence of the endeavors displayed by the present government to combat the high cost of living, to encourage production and to ensure the needs of the people at fair prices."

*

"The Arab League", writes Ash-Shaab, "convened without reaching any agreement upon any item of its agenda.

"The U.S. diplomats are meeting in Istanbul to examine the affairs of the Middle East and to coordinate the U.S. policy in the area. No doubt, they will discuss Arab affairs from the political and defensive angles; they will exchange information on conditions in the Arab states and on the Arabs' great resentment and general despair of their governments. They will define the governments' responsibility for this state of affairs. They will tell of the need for a sense of responsibility on the part of these governments.

"The Istanbul conferrees will do all that and will talk also of other Arab affairs, which did not occur to the Arab governments at their latest League meeting. We do say the Istanbul conference will do all that, but with earnestness unexperienced by the League meetings. The conference will be

over.....

- 3 -

February 15, 1951.

over and there will be no ado and no statements."

*

"Today", writes Al-Yaqdha, "the conference of the U.S. diplomats in the Middle East is beginning in Istanbul. It is presided by the Asst. Secretary of State for Near Eastern and African Affairs. It is attended by the U.S. Air Secretary and the Chief of the U.S. Fleet in the Mediterranean.

"This is not the first one of the U.S. diplomats in the Middle East. But, this one is characterized by the fact that it is coinciding with the present international conditions.

"Obviously, the conference will concentrate on discussing the defense of this part of the world, repeatedly described by the Anglo-Americans as a vacuum not to be disregarded in view of the oil resources which the West is concerned to retain for itself.

"We don't want to reiterate that such conferences will be to no avail on the day of the catastrophe, as long as Western Imperialism has driven the Arab states to such a low standard and has set up Israel as a bayonet in their flank.

"But, it seems that American recklessness in unwilling to care the consequences of the ill-fated policy to which the Washington tyrants and the London tormentors subject the Arab states. This recklessness is to such an extent that the defense of the Middle East is being discussed in the absence of the inhabitants of the area. Moreover, as usual the U.S. Diplomats will not advise the governments of the area of their decisions.

"The Americans who are beginners in politics do not appreciate the danger arising from disregarding the peoples. They will repent for their present behavior. The hour of repentance is coming.

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

The Agriculture Department has recommended to the Ministry of Economics seven types of projects:

- 1) Dry farming
- 2) Road building in Northern Iraq for economic and agricultural development.
- 3) Agricultural production centers.
- 4) Afforestation.
- 5) Improving tobacco.
- 6) Silos.
- 7) Cooperative Agricultural development. (Al-Ittihad

- 4 -

February 15, 1951.

An economic and social section has been formed in the Iraqi Legation in Cairo for the exchange of this type of information between the two countries. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

*

In a communique from the Saudi Legation in Baghdad, the reports about the crack in the Medina Mosque of the Prophet are described as "exaggerated", because it is "old and does not justify any alarm." Moreover, the communique announces, "H.M. King Abdul Aziz Aal Seoud has ordered that all the necessary measures be adopted to repair it, and has taken on himself to spend on the repairs whatever may be the cost." (Al-Umma)

*

At a press meeting at the Iranian Embassy Iranian Mujtahid Imam Sayid Al-Iraqiyyin, who is here on a short visit on his way to Cairo where he spends usually the winter, told newsmen, "I have spent my first twenty years in Iraq. I love and am proud of Iraqis. I have established a library in Kerbala. I have prepared a grave in Iraq for myself." Then, he explained that the purpose of his visit is to see the holy places and to get in touch with the Ulamas with the intention of implementing the idea of a Moslem League." (Al-Umma)

* * * * *

E N D

D A I L Y R E V I E W
of the
B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

February 16, 1951
February 17, 1951

* * * * *

FEBRUARY 15 MEETING OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

On February 15, the Chamber of Deputies met. Six cabinet members were present: those of Works and Communications, Finance, Social Affairs, Education and Justice, and Mohammed Hassan Kubba, Minister without Portfolio.

The Minister of Social Affairs answered three questions. The Minister of Works and Communications, three also. The Minister of Education, one.

The Chamber approved the Ordinance for the export tax on dates. The bill was passed by 52 votes against 23. The opposition was made up of: Razzouq Shammas, Salem Jaffar, Sakban Al-Elli, Abdul Razzak Al-Uzri, Abdul Aziz Jamil, Abdul Kerim Kanna, Abdulla Sulaiman Al-Bayati, Abdulla Ash-Sharafani, Obeid Al-Haj Khalaf, Izzat Murad Al-Shaikh, Ali Kadhim Abul Teman, Faiq As-Samerrai, Mohammed Mahdi Kubba, Naji Al-Hermezi, Ahmed Al-Naqib, Edward Georgie, Ismail Ghanem, Towfiq Al-Mukhtar, Jamal Ar-Rawi, Haj Shemdin, Husamiddin Jem'a, Dhiban Al-Ghabban, and Abdul Samad Al-Bechari.

Then, the Chamber ratified the Agreement No. 88 pertaining to establishing an employment agency. Faiq As-Samerrai urged the government to change its "mentality" regarding the workers and their trade unions. Abdul Kerim Kanna told the government not to fear trade unionism. Razzouq Shammas, expresses the hope that the agreement will induce the government to set up an employment agency and to ensure the workers against unemployment and sickness. The Minister of Social Affairs confessed that the labor system in Iraq is "defective" and hopes the agreement will help to meet the shortcomings.

The Chamber adjourned until next Monday (i.e. February 19). The agenda of the coming meeting includes Ali Kamal's suggestion to hire the services of German doctors and engineers, and the report of the Economic Committee on the Skin Association. (Az-Zaman. 2/16)

* * *

EDITORIAL.....

-2-

February 16 and 17, 1951.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Sketching the "dark" picture of the world situation, Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi (2/16) points out that the Korean war is gaining momentum and fierceness, President Truman is asking Congress for more emergency powers, Europe is stepping up its military preparations on a large scale, Hungary is annoying Yugoslavia, and the Indochinese rebels are preparing a fresh attack against the French forces.

In this state of "turmoil", we have to prepare ourselves to face the worse possible catastrophes. Premier Nuri As-Said was right to call for such steps at his lecture at the Faisal Hall. Events prove that he was wise to propose the reactivating of the Supreme Defense Council for an examination of international conditions. The Korean war may spread, and we should be on the alert.

*

Speaking of the Communist attack in Korea, Sada Al-Ahali notes that it is still going on and it is not yet known whether it is meant to "liberate" Korea entirely from the American forces or it is "part of a plan to bleed the U.S. military power to white."

The U.S. is politically, economically and militarily committed in the Korean war. Its continuance means more arms and more troops to be shipped to Korea. The U.S. is unwilling to "resort to the good solution of withdrawing from Korea after its intervention has brought total destruction to the country."

Switching to the rearmament of Japan, the paper underscores that "Japanese militarism has been in the past an instrument of aggression and of imperialism in the Far East." The U.S. means to gain a trump in the Far Eastern game.

Summing up the situation in the Far East, the paper says in the end, "The Far East is at present a burning volcano of nationalism. The U.S. considers it as an immediate menace to its political and economic influence in this part of the world. That is why, it is trying to consolidate its military power by reviving the Japanese to suppress this nationalism. The plan is a menace not only to Korea but also to the Philippines, to Indochina, to the Malaya, to Burma and to India, as demonstrated by Japanese expansionism before the last war."

* * *

SHORT.....

-3-

February 16 and 17, 1951.

SHORT NEWS.

The Anglo-Iraqi financial talks are expected to be concluded tomorrow (Sunday). It seems that understanding has prevailed. The government will most probably make an official announcement. (Az-Zaman. 2/17)

*

According to a Beirut message, Camille Shamoun will visit Baghdad to consult with Premier Nuri As-Said. (Az-Zaman)

*

Rashid Selbi, of the Ministry of Education, has returned in Baghdad. (Az-Zaman. 2/17)

*

According to Economics Minister Abdul Majid Mahmud, the Syro-Iraqi trade talks will last a week. (Az-Zaman. 2/16)

*

The Ministry of Works and Communications, in a memorandum to the Council of Ministers, has requested the appointment of Mr. Hardy to the post of DG of Irrigation, formerly held by Abdul Amir Al-Uzri. (Az-Zaman. 2/16)

*

Dr. Jamali is reported to have arrived in London from Lake Success. (Al-Akhbar. 2/16)

* * * * *

E N D

D A I L Y R E V I E W

25X1A

of the

THIS IS AN UNCLASSIFIED COPY

B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq

February 18, 1951
February 19, 1951

* * * * *

END OF ANGLO-IRAQI FINANCIAL TALKS.

At a press conference held on February 18, Finance Minister Abdul Wahab Merjan announced the conclusion of the current Anglo-Iraqi financial negotiations. He handed to the newsmen the following written statement:

"Today, the Government of Iraq and the Government of the United Kingdom have completed the arrangements for providing Iraq's needs of scarce currencies for her imports and other necessary payment, for the period beginning on October 1, 1950, and ending on September 30, 1951, provided that these arrangements be revised at the end of that period.

"Iraq's transaction reserves will increase from 2 million to 4 million sterling pounds. It has been agreed to release other sums in sterling not exceeding the total of 6 million, as the sterling account No. 1 of Iraq decreases to less than 6 million pounds during the remaining period of the financial agreement signed in August 1947. Article 7 of the said agreement is nullified. The sterling balances frozen by virtue of the said Article will be released.

"The text of the correspondence exchanged in this respect will be released as soon as possible."

Answering the newsmen's queries, Abdul Wahab Merjan stated that the scarce currencies needed for the oil refinery have been made available.

Referring to the nullified Article 7 of the 1947 agreement, he explained that Iraq was getting an interest of 2.5% on the sterling balances. 2% of which was being frozen; and 0.5% was being released. Now, the accumulated interest is being released and amounts to ID. 1,784,000. Moreover, 6 million sterling pounds are being released. Iraq's sterling currency reserves is being increased by 2 million, bringing the total amount to 4 million. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi. 2/18)

* * *

SALEH....

- 2 -

February 18 and 19, 1951.

SALEH JABR BREAKS HIS SILENCE.

In a seven-answer statement to Ash-Shaab (2/18), Senator Saleh Jabr airs his views about unemployment, social security and trade-unionism in Iraq.

Answering the first question about unemployment, he said that the existence of such a problem in Iraq is "undeniable", but "not inevitable." However, it is "painful to have it in a country as rich as ours." The problem, he elaborated, is more than the one of unemployment; it is, indeed, a matter of "poverty and of a low standard of living." In Europe, unemployment is due to a high density of population; but, Iraq is underpopulated.

"It is incumbent upon any government to afford work for everyone and it is the right of every Iraqi to ask for it from the government. This should be a fundamental principle." Beside, it is possible for the government to give work to the Youth by launching various productive projects.

Asked about the feasibility of these projects, Saleh Jabr stressed that it is a matter of "good will and sincere determination." As for funds, they can be provided through the oil royalties, taxes (after revising the present system) and international loans.

Answering the third question about his opinion regarding the emigration of the farmers of Southern Iraq into the capital, Saleh Jabr conceded the right of everyone to work where it pleases him. But, this emigration is the object of concern, because rural areas are deprived of manpower and urban districts suffer of unemployment. No doubt, it is caused by their living conditions. "Indeed," he asserted, "the time has come to deal with the lands problem and to reconsider the present relationships between the farmers and the lands holders and between the government and the lands holders." The government, he went on, should give special care to the farmers, because they constitute the majority of the people.

Asked about the social problem regarding the disabled and aged persons, widows and orphans, Saleh Jabr said that the government should take care of supportless persons. The government "can implement a social security plan and find the necessary funds for it because it affects the life of many thousands of Iraqis."

Answering the fifth question, Saleh Jabr pointed out that the right of workers to form unions is "unquestionable", and he "supports" the Iraqi workers in their claim to such organizations. He is "proud" of having permitted unions to form in 1944.

To.....

- 3 - February 18 and 19, 1951.

To the remark that unionism is mixed with Communist activities in the opinion of some, Saleh Jabr conceded that it was and it will be in future. However, there should be a discrimination between the two, and workers should cooperate in preserving the essentially vocational character of their unions by averting to shed any political color on them.

Asked whether in view of his experience he thinks all he stated is practical, Saleh Jabr affirmed that any government can realize it. "As for myself", he said, "I do not pretend to be infallible, and no one can make such a claim. But, I have done what I believed right. The matter is not that I or anyone else achieves or does not achieve anything, but that the welfare of the country be attained whether by me or anyone else. I and others, we will pass away, but the people shall remain. For the people's sake, all should cooperate and the people's sake, all should strive." (Ash-Shaab. 2/18)

N.B.-- The above statement was reproduced the next day by Al-Umma and Al-Nabaa. (Ed.)

* * *

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Prompted by reports that France has agreed to put at the disposal of the U.S. five air bases in Morocco, and that Britain has agreed to put at the disposal of the U.S. her air bases in the Arab states, and pointing to the American diplomats' conference in Istanbul, Sada Al-Ahali (2/19) says, "All that makes it clear that the Arab states are confronted with unquestionable great dangers. The Americans and the British, regardless of any consideration, are striving to implement their projects and they are disposing of this area without any regard to the will of its inhabitants. They are implementing their decided imperialistic policy as agreed among the U.S., Britain and France. It is meant to consolidate the influence of imperialism. This will make the struggle of the Arab peoples against it still harder..... It is meant to prevent the liberation of the Arab peoples and to plunge them into the coming war."

As a counter-action, the paper calls for a movement for neutrality among popular organizations.

*

"The government is in a state of recovery", affirms Faiq As-Samerrai in Liwa Al-Istiqlal (2/18), because its prime minister is himself recovering and no one may tell the people about the League meeting nor take any decision of importance.

*

Backing.....

- 4 - February 18 and 19, 1951.

Backing the Qudsi plan, ex-Premier Muzahim Al-Fachachi recalls that the German unity and the Italian unity were confronted with more difficulties and that, in fact, the Wahabi revolt in Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Ali's conquests and the Arab Great Revolt of King Hussain were striving for the same goal, that is the unity of the Arabs. (Az-Zaman. 2/18)

* * *

SHORT NEWS.

On Tuesday (tomorrow), the Iraqi-Lebanese trade agreement will be signed by Economics Minister Abdul Majid Mahmud and Lebanese Minister in Baghdad Kadhem Al-Solh. (Az-Zaman. 2/19)

*

The Court of Sessions has set the date for the hearings of Khayyoun Al-Obeid case next month. (Az-Zaman. 2/19)

*

Weisi Shehab and Qerni Shehab have been sentenced to one year's imprisonment for Communist activities. They were caught in Erbil while distributing Communist leaflets. (Az-Zaman. 2/19)

*

The Council of Ministers, upon the recommendation of the Minister of Economics, has authorised the payment of ID. 5,000 to a British law firm as fees for the case against the IPC. (Al-Umma. 2/19)

*

The charter members of the Journalists' Association convened last Thursday at the Sada Al-Anali newspaper. They decided to have a meeting this afternoon, Monday, February 19, to which all newspapermen are invited for electing an administrative committee. (Al-Yaqdha. 2/19)

*

The Chamber of Deputies is convening this morning. (Ash-Shaab. 2/19)

*

Dr. Jamali will arrive in Baghdad on February 21 most probably. (Al-Nabaa. 2/18)

*

A Royal Bilat announcement says that the King arrived in London on February 15. (Ash-Shaab. 2/18)

25X1A

D A I L Y R E V I E W

of the

B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

February 20, 1951.

* * * * *

FEBRUARY 19 MEETING OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

Yesterday's meeting of the Chamber saw a strong argument between the Deputy-Prime Minister, Towfiq As-Suwaidi, and two deputies of the Independence Party.

First of all, the Chamber was notified of Abdul Majid Mahmud's election to the Afeq district. New questions were submitted to the government; Ahmed Hafidh is inquiring from the Minister of Foreign Affairs why the Iraqi delegate at Lake Success dissented from the other Arab delegates and voted for the U.S. proposal naming China as aggressor. The Vice-President announced the reception of a draft bill amending the Commerce Code. The Chamber approved the Mortgage Bank Law and switched to the amendment of the income-tax law which caused the argument between Towfiq As-Suwaidi and the deputies of the Independence Party.

Mohammed Siddiq Shanshal tabled a motion for an immediate discussion of the draft law amending the income-tax; and it was approved. The next speaker was Faiq As-Samerrai. He raised the case of the liquidation of the Eastern Tobacco Co., of which Towfiq As-Suwaidi was a shareholder.

According to Towfiq As-Suwaidi, the Eastern Tobacco Co. paid for the three years it existed all its income-tax dues. But, profits fell by 50%. The financial authorities refused to assess them on the new rate, unless their source cease. Thus, the Company, after consulting lawyers, decided to liquidate itself. But, it was reformed with a higher capital that is ID. 80,000 instead of ID. 40,000; some new shareholders were brought in. The government refused to take it into consideration regarding it as an outer change. The Company sued the financial authorities before the judicial committee of general assessment and won its case.

According to Abdul Karim Al-Uzri, Minister of Finance in the outgoing Suwaidi government, there were two cases wherein the company changed its name: One, the Hasso Co. and Two, the Eastern Tobacco Co. The Hasso Co., established the precedent; it changed its name and won its case through the judicial procedure and the outcome was sanctioned by the Court of Cassation.

- 2 -

February 20, 1951.

In order to put an end to this new precedent, the Ministry of Finance at his time (time of Abdul Karim Al-Uzri) thought of amending the income-tax law as submitted in the draft before parliament.

This, according to explanatory memorandum attached to the draft law, has cost the government more than 30,000 dinars.

Siddiq Shanshal and Faiq As-Samerrai capitalized on the case of the Eastern Tobacco Co. to accuse Towfiq As-Suwaidi of grafting.

While Shanshal was speaking, Towfiq As-Suwaidi walked out; but, the former told him not to flee.

And the Chamber adjourned until Monday, February 26, 1951.
(Al-Umma)

* * *

ANSWER TO SALEH JABR'S STATEMENT.

Giving the repartee to Saleh Jabr's statement to the Ash-Shaab newspaper, As-Sijil reminds him, in connection with unemployment, that two of his relatives are having two jobs; in daytime they work at the Ministry of Interior, and at nights at the Baghdad Radio. Regarding the lands problem, it reminds him of the state of affairs in the Liwa of Muntafik. Regarding trade-unions, it recalls that he persecuted the Railway workers' union.

*

Al-Hawadith points out that in his seventh answer Saleh Jabr calmly confessed his mistakes and did not minimize his responsibility. Moreover, he appeals for national unity; and this appeal is worth heeding.

* * *

THE ANGLO-IRAQI FINANCIAL TALKS.

Commenting on the statement given by the Minister of Finance at his press conference on the Anglo-Iraqi financial talks, Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi expresses its appreciation of the efforts made the Ministry of Finance to bring them to a successful end, and adds, "No doubt, by its success the government has undertaken a large stride to afford the necessary currencies for upholding its movement of positive reforms and for increasing the productive capacity of the country.

* * *

SHORT....

- 3 -

February 20, 1951.

SHORT NEWS.

Ahmed Ar-Rawi, Minister-designate in Amman, will be leaving for his post either on February 25 or 26. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

*

The Propaganda Department is denying the report of Al-Nabaa that the Ministry of Interior means to abolish the posts of Qaimmaqams at the Liwa headquarters of Sulaimaniya, Nasiriya, Hilla, Amara and Diwaniya. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

*

Newspapermen met yesterday afternoon to elect the administrative committee of the newly-founded Newspapermen's Association. The results are: Kamel Chaderchi, President; Salman As-Safwani, Secretary; Towfiq As-Suman, Treasurer; Jaffar Al-Khalili, and Adel Awni as members. (Al-Ittihad Ad-Dasturi)

*

Premier Nuri As-Said is recovering. He means to go to Basra and, even, abroad for rest. (Al-Hawadith)

*

Mohammed Mahdi Aj-Jawahery has just returned from Lebanon where he was invited to participate in the panegyric of Abdul Hamid Karame. But, Al-Alam Al-Arabi reports that Poet Aj-Jawahery was ordered by the security authorities in Lebanon to leave the country within 24 hours.

*

Today, the Baghdad Criminal Court is to hear the case of ex-Staff Major Ghadban As-Saad. He is accused of disseminating Communism among the armed forces following the confiscation of his book, "Korea in the Parade of Freedom". Forty-five lawyers have volunteered to defend him. The list is headed by Abdul Wahab Mahmud, the President of the Bar Association, and includes persons like Daud As-Sa'di, Abdul Razzak Ash-Shaikhly, Abdul Karim Kanna, and Khedouri Khedouri. (Al-Alam Al-Arabi)

* * * * *

E N D